HIS Majesties Propriety, AND DOMINION ON THE Brittish Seas ASSERTED:

Together with a true Account of the *Neatherlanders* Insupportable Insolencies, and Injuries, they have committed; and the Inestimable Benefits they have gained in their Fishing on the *English Seas*;

As also their Prodigious and Horrid Cruelties in the *East* and *West-Indies*, and other Places.

To which is added, an Exact Mapp, containing the Isles of *Great Brittain*, and *Ireland*, with the several Coastings, and the Adjacent Parts of our Neighbours; By an Experienced Hand.

London, Printed by *T. Mabb*, for *Andrew Kembe*, near S^t. *Margarets-Hill* in *Southwark*, and *Edward Thomas*, at the *Adam* and *Eve* in *Little Brittain*; and *Robert Clavel*, at the *Staggs-Head* in *Ivy-Lane*, 1665.

Mystic Prophecy

AND

DOMINION

OF THE

British Seas

ASSERTED;

Or, the Naval Glory of

To the Most Illustrious, and Heroical, George *Duke of* Aubemarle, *Earle of* Torrington, *Baron* Monck *of* Potheridge, Beauchamp, *and* Teys, *Captain General of His Majesties Land-Forces, Garrisons, Forts, and Castles within any of His Majesties Dominions; Master of the Horse; Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter; And one of His Majesties Most Honourable Privy Council.*

May it please Your Highness:

THese Papers concerning His Majesties Right and

Propriety to His Dominion on the *Britiſh ſeas*, do here moſt Humbly Addreſſe Themſelves to Your Highneſs Moſt Illuſtrious Hand, and Submit Themſelves as much to the Affability of Your Candour, as they implore the Greatneſſe of Your protection, to which they are Encouraged both by Reaſon and Religion; for Your Highneſs being the Great Inſtrument which all along attended the Divine Providence,

in

in Reſtoring His Majeſty to His *Own*, both by Sea and Land, and in Eſtabliſhing Religion as well as Loyalty; The ſame Reaſon doth perſwade me, that theſe Aſſertions may be Acceptable to You, and that your Highneſs will vouch-ſafe Your Patronage to that Subject which you ſo Happily and Heroically have Effected; and for which all Ages ſhall Renown your Memory.

May it please Your Highness:

The Profits which the *Dutch* have made by their Fishing on the *English Seas*, are as vast as their Ingratitude is abominable, which with an Elaborate Malice they have Expressed by their manifold out-rages committed in the *East* and *West-Indies*, where (that no Villany may be unpractised) to Improve their Interests, they have added Hypocrisie to their Avarice, and to

their

their Ambition, Murder. The Innocent Blood which they have ſpilt, doth cry aloud for Vengeance; Nor can the guilt of it fall aſleep, but will be lodged in the Memories of Righteous Men, and kept awake by the Induſtry of faithfull Hiſtorians; and by this Ruder Pen of him who is,

(May it pleaſe Your Highneſs,)

Your Moſt Humble,

and moſt devoted Servant,

Robert Codrington.

their Ambition, Murder. The Innocent Blood which they have spilt, doth cry aloud for Vengeance; Nor can the guilt of it fall asleep, but will be lodged in the Memories of Righteous Men, and kept awake by the Industry of faithfull Historians; and by this Ruder Pen of him whous,

(May it please Your Highness,)

Your Most Humble,

and most devoted Servant,

Robert Codrington.

THE PREFACE TO THE Reader.

THe Combinations and Endeavours of the States General of the United Provinces against His Majesty, and this Nation have been so insupportably Insolent, that the Parliament not long since, upon the Cry of the whole Nation, did sollicite him to take some extraordinary way to give Redress unto his Subjects for the many and daily Injuries they sustained from them by their Depredations at Sea, for the Horrid and Barbarous Cruelties inflicted on them in the East and West-Indies, which being as

odious

odious in their Nature, as they are remarkable in their Number, have been the onely Cause that these pains are taken to give a generall satisfaction to the World, by exhibiting this Brief, but most true Account of His Majesties Undoubted Right, and sole Propriety in the Englisſh, Scottiſh, and the Iriſh Seas: A truth as Antient, as it is Eminent, and not only held forth and atteſted by the Laws of our Land, and the Records of the Tower, and the High Courts of Parliament, but heretofore confeſſed alſo by divers of their own Nation, as in this Book you ſhall find it faithfully repreſented to you; But it hath been the late practiſe of the Hollanders (without examining the Lawfulneſs of the Act) to put their Oares into every Boat, where Gain and Profit doth appear. It was this, that tempted them to invade the Iſlands of Moluccos, Lantore, and Polleroon, which in the Name of the Crown of England the Engliſh for ſome years had poſſeſſed, neither did they entertain the leaſt jealouſie of oppoſition from the Hollanders, who they knew heretofore had been oblidged to them for many antient good Offices in a time, when their greateſt ſafety did depend upon them, and who lately were conjoyned with them in

a ſtrict

a ſtrict Alliance and Confederacy for Partnerſhip in the East-Indie-Trade, in the year 1619. Neither did they fear the Natives, whom they found to expreſs a greater Inclination of good will unto them then to the Hollanders, for the Engliſh aimed at nothing more, then a lawful and competent profit by Commerce and Traffick with the Natives, and the Dutch; And though in ſome places the Engliſh had erected ſome Forts, and ſetled ſome Strength, yet it was not by any Force or Violence, nor againſt the good will of the People of the Country, but with their own good liking, and conſent, for the better ſecurity of their Trade, and upon the voluntary ſubmiſſion of the Natives to the Obedience and Soveraignty of the Crown of England, in which ſubmiſſion the Antient Laws and Liberties of the ſaid Natives, and all their own Immunities were comprehended, and reſerved: In this Eſtabliſhment the Engliſh did conceive themſelves to be ſecure enough; when behold the Dutch (who would be no better Neighbours to us in the Indies then in Europe) began to quarrel with us, and to hinder us in our Trade to free Places, the which the better to obtain, they oftentimes ſeized upon our Ships, and

Goods,

Goods, and finding this violence not to Answer their Expectation, they at the last contrived to make themselves the absolute Masters of the vast profits of those Places; In the pursuit whereof, they have razed and demolished the English Forts, and laying violent hands on the English themselves, who made not the least Resistance; they have tyed them to stakes with Ropes about their Necks; they have seized upon their Goods, they have Imprisoned their Persons, they have Whipped them at the Post in the open Market Place, and having washed their torn and wounded Bodies with Vinegar and Salt, they have again doubled their scourges to multiply their Torments; they have dragged them from thence to places almost inaccessible, by reason of their steepness and roughness, and having thrown them down the Rocks, if any Sence of life remained, they have added new oppression to their weary and bruised limbs, by the heavy weights of Iron; To these deliberate Torments the cruelties of other Nations are but Courtesies, and Death it self a Mercy; And as if they were the absolute Lords in the Indies they have assumed a Power to themselves in the deciding of the controversies between the

English

English *and the* Indians *for matters passed quite out of their jurisdiction, and when Law and Right have pleaded against them, they have Executed their Decrees by violence. These be they who have laid a claim to His Majesties Interests on his own Brittish Seas, and rather then allow them proper unto Him, they have declared them common unto All: At the first they begged leave for their Fishing on the* English *Seas, which being granted them by the accustomed Indulgence of our Princes, they have so presumed upon their lenity, that at the last they have made a Law in their own Country, That the* English *shal Sell no white Herrings, nor other Fish there upon penalty of Confiscation; They are Fishing on the* English *Seas from* June *unto* November, *and seem there to dwel amongst the Fish for 26 weeks together, in which time the havock which they make in destroying the Spawn and Fry of Fish that comes into their Netts, and otherwise is as remarkable as what they carry away with them. The Reverend and Learned Mathematitian,* Doctor Dee, *almost one hundred years since, speaking of the incredible spoyle of Fry and Spawn, which is yearly made on the River of* Thames, *and other Rivers belonging to this Island,*

Vide, Doctor Dee, his Brittish Monarchy, pa. 44.

Island, doth conclude, that there are yearly spoyled on those Rivers, 2000 Cart-loads of fresh fish, which would have so proved to be Market-able, if they had not been destroyed in their Nonage; I shall give you his Assertion in his own words; It is probable, *saith he*, that in all *England* by the manifold disorder used about the destroying of Fry and Spawn, there is yearly spoyled or hindred the Brood of 2000 Cart-loads of fresh Fish of middle Market-able-skantlin.

The value of which 2000 Cart-loads, do amount to 90000 Bushels of fresh Fish, six Quarters going to a Cart-load, which one with another being rated at five shillings a Bushel, doth amount in currant *English* Money, to the sum of 20500*l.*

Which quantity of Fish also would maintain for one day, One thousand thousand, and eight hundred thousand Men; or nine hundred thousand Men two dayes; or three hundred thousand Men six dayes, or a hundred thousand, eighteen dayes, or fifty thousand Men thirty six dayes, or five and twenty thousand Men six and twenty dayes.

If

If by our own Neglect, ſo great a deſtruction of Fiſh is made in our own Rivers, what may we conceive the diſorders to be which are made on the Engliſh Seas, *by thoſe whoſe buſineſs it is, to think all is Fiſh that comes to Net, and whoſe Trade to Plunder; The time of our patience hath been long, their promiſes of Redreſs numerous, and the daily Injuries we have received inſupportable: To give you in this place a more large Account of them, were to Anticipate your Underſtanding; I ſhall therefore for your further Satisfaction, refer you to the particulars in the Book it ſelf:* Farewell.

To

Iles Orcades
Baro
C. Wrath
Rona
Dunkeith
S. Killda
The Iles of Hebrides
Aberden
SCOTLAND
W
THE WEST
OCEAN
St. Andrews
Edenborough
Barwick
Holy Island
THE NO
Northumberland
Iley I.
Newcastle
Tinmouth haven
SEA
Galloway
Durham
Ulster
Carlile
Cumberland
Scarbrough
Yorke Shire
Ile of Man
Connaugh
IRELAND
Lanca Shire
Lincoln Shire
THE
Anglesey
ENGLAND
Lincolne
IRISH
Leinster
SEA
Wales
Monmouth Shire
Mounster
59
58
57
56
55
54
53
52

NORWAY
N
E
S
NORTH
EA
Jutsche Riff
JUT-
LAND
Banck
Doggers
White Banck
Meklenborgh
CHANELL
Norfolke
Suffolke
Essex
of the
Netherlandes

An Exact Map Containing the Isles of Great Brittaine and Ireland, with the adjacent parts of all the other neighbouring Nations: Drawne acco

Sold by A. Kembe, E: Th

S
NORTH
EA
Doggers Banck
White Banck
Norfolke
Suffolke
Harwich
THE CHANELL
OR
SEA
Part of the Nethertandes
Part of Flanders
Antwerp
Ostende
Sluys
Newport
Dunkerke
Greveling
Meklenborgh
Hamburgh
Lubeck
Kent
Deal
Dieppe
Sandie
70
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
The Scale of English Leagues
the Severall Coastings that Surround the Same: As also the
cording to the best and latest Discoveries,
Thomas, and R. Clavell.
by an experienced Hand

THE
Propriety and Dominion
of the KING of Great Brittain
on His SEAS; Aſſerted againſt all Oppoſers, and Confirmed from all Ages, to this Preſent Time.

FOR the better Underſtanding of the following Diſcourſe, we ſhall in the firſt place lay down theſe Two Propoſitions:

Firſt, *That the Sea by the Law of Nature and Nations is not common to all Men, but is capable of Private Dominion, as well as the Land.*

The Second, Is, *That the KING of* GREAT BRITTAIN *Is LORD of the SEA Flowing about, as an Inſeparable and Perpetual Appendant of the* Britiſh *Empire.*

Before we shall insist on these Propositions, We shall in the first place, remove some Objections that may be made against them: Some are drawn from the Freedome of Commerce or Trassique, which by many are affirmed to be so Naturall, that they can no where be abolished by any Law or Custome, and that by the Law of Nations it is unjust to Deny Merchants the Benefit of Commerce and Navigation.

Other Objections are drawn from the Nature of the Sea it self, for it is commonly alleaged that the Sea is altered, and shifted every Moment, and the State thereof, through a continued succession of new waters, alwayes uncertain, and remains so little the same in all things, (the Channel onely excepted) that it is impossible it should ever be retained in the Possession of any One Particular.

As to the first, It is easie to be proved by the Ancient Interpreters of the *Mosaical* Law, That the Sea is altogether as capable of Private Dominion, as the Land; The Words of GOD in the

Lyren. ad Numer. 34.

the Book of *Numbers* are expreſs; *And let your Borders be the Great Sea*; that is, ſay the *Rabbins*, the main Ocean, and its Iſles; And it is plainly to be proved, that a Private Dominion of the Sea no otherwiſe then of Land aroſe from humane Diſtribution: We read, that *Pompey* the Great, being Maſter of a Huge Navy, had a Commiſsion given him from the Senate, as abſolute Lord of the Sea; The like had *Mark Anthony* ſome few years after him; And many of the Roman Hiſtorians have called the Sea, their Sea; becauſe it was wholly ſubdued to the Roman Power. Dion. Lib. 36.

We might here alleage many Examples how long the *Lidians*, the *Phygians*, the *Rhodians*, the *Phænicians*, and many other Eaſtern Nations, one after another have been Lords of the Sea: Thy Borders are in the midſt or heart of the Sea ſaith the Propher *Ezekiel* of the *Tyrians*: *Quintus Curtius* affirmeth, that the City of *Tyre* builded by *Agenor*, made not onely the neighbouring Sea, but what Seas ſoever her ſhips ſayled into, to be of her Dominion: There was an ancient cuſtome uſed in the Chron. Canon. *p.* 128.

East, that when Great Kings had a design to bring any Nation under their Power, they commanded Water, and Earth, the pledges of Empire and Dominion to be delivered unto them, conceiving that the Command of the Sea, as well as the Land was signified by such a token.

Florus, lib. 2. cap. 6. The like may be affirmed of the West, for both *Polybeius*, and *Appian* affirme that the *Carthaginians* Enjoyed the Command of the Sea without all Controversy, as received from their Ancestors; And if we take a view of these late Times, as to the Rights and Customes of other Nations, which at this present are in high Reputation, we shall finde that the Common-Wealth of *Venice* have enjoyed the Dominion of the *Adriatick* Sea for many Ages: The *Tuscans* to this day have an Absolute Dominion in the *Tyrhene* Sea, and those of *Genoa* in the *Lygustick*; the like we may alledge of the *Danes*, the *Swedes*, and the People of *Norway*; And to conclude, that the Dominion of the Sea is admitted amongst those things that are lawfull, and

and received into the Cuſtomes of Nations, is ſo far from contradiction, that nothing at all can be found to controule it in the Cuſtonies of our latter Times, unleſſe it be by ſome, who being Borderers upon the Sea-Dominions of others, do ſtrive to violate the Rights of their Neighbours, under the pretenſe of Civil Community.

Now as to the Objection concerning the Freedome of Commerce and Paſſage pretended to be common to All; It is moſt evident from the Cuſtomes of all Times, that Commerce, and Free Paſſage hath ever been ſo limited by Princes in their Territories, that it is either permitted, or prohibited according to the various Concernments of the Publick Good. Princes are concerned to be wary and carefull, that they admit no ſuch Strangers or Commerce where the Common-Wealth may receive any Damage thereby: And *Ariſtotle* plainly and expreſly ſaith, That proviſion ought to be made by Lawes, with whom Subjects may, or may not converſe: Moreover it is commonly provided in

Ariſto. Polit. lib. 7. cap. 6.

Leagues, that it ſhall not be lawfull for either Party to ſayle into each others Ports, Coaſts, or Harbours with ſuch a number of Ships, as may give a juſt occaſion of Fear or Jealouſie that Force is intended; except leave be firſt had of that Party under whoſe Juriſdiction thoſe Places are, or unleſs they be driven thither by Tempeſt, or other Neceſſity, to avoid a greater Force, or the Danger of Shipwrack: And to conclude, *Bodine* affirmeth, That it is lawfull to prohibite any Forreigner from entring the Borders, and alſo to force him out, if he hath entred the Borders, not only if a War be on foot, but alſo in Time of Peace, that the Priviledges, Safety, and Welfare of the Inhabitants may not be corrupted by converſation with Strangers.

As to that Objection concerning the uncertainty of the Sea, which (it is alledged) doth render it unfit for private Dominion, becauſe it is ever in motion, and in no wiſe remains the ſame: Suppoſe we grant that it be ſo flowing, as is uſualy ſaid of the moſt Northernly Seas; yet certainly the Channels, and

Strabo. Geograp. lib. 1.

Places

Places through which the waters flow remain ever the ſame, although the waters themſelves do ſhift, and change continually. In the *Germane* Empire, (according to the Civil Law) Rivers are all of them of Publick Uſe, yet for all that, they are reckoned in the Emperours private Patrimony, and amongſt the Royalties belonging to his Exchequer; So that the Emperour, or others by his Grant, have a yearly Revenue out of the Fiſheries in them; Neither is there any thing more common then an Aſſerting of the Private Dominion of Rivers, in the Lawes of *France*, *Spain*, *Poland*, and *Venice*, and, in a word, of all Nations whoſe Cuſtomes are known; ſeeing therefore that a Dominion and Propriety of Rivers hath been every where acknowledged, why ſhould it not in the like manner be acknowledged, that there may be Owners of any Sea whatſoever? Since the always running and flowing Nature of water can no more hinder a Dominion in the one, then in the other, for the Rivers themſelves are but little Seas; as the Sea it ſelf, to its fluide Conſti-

Seneca Ep. 39.

tution, is but a River, the one differing only in bignes from the other; and so it hath been taken by the Antients; In the very History of the Creation, all the Gatherings together of the waters are called Seas: Many Lakes have been
Luke 5. 1. called Seas; *Tiberias* by St. *Luke* is called a Lake, but by the other Evangelists a Sea. *Asphaltites* is by *Pliny*, *Solinus*, and others, termed a Lake, but by *Moses* in the Fourteenth of *Genesis*, *the Salt Sea*, and by most of the late Writers, *the Dead Sea*.

They indeed, who make use of such frivolous subtilties, as these to oppose the Dominion of the Sea deserve to be turned over to the Phylosophers, *Heraclitus* and *Epicharmus*, who taught that every thing is so altered, changed, and renewed, that nothing in this World continues the same, as it was in the instant immediately going before. Our Bodies (saith *Seneca*) are hurried like Rivers; whatsoever thou seest, runneth with Time; Not one of all those things that are visible continueth; I even whilest I speak of these changes am changed my self: But let

such

ſuch men as dream that the fluide Inconſtant Nature of the Sea diſproves the private Dominion of it, entertain the ſame opinion if they pleaſe with theſe Men, and then they muſt of neceſsity grant alſo, that themſelves are not Owners or Poſſeſſors, of Houſes, Lands, or Money, or any other thing whatſoever.

As to that Argument, that the water is open to All, and therefore by Law, it muſt lye open at all times to all men, it is a very trifling Argument. Before the firſt Diſtribution of things, there was no Land which did not lye open unto All before it came under particular Poſſeſsion: In many places payment is made for the uſe of water; as amongſt the *Hollanders*, they have in *Delph-Land* a Cuſtome, called, *Jus Grutæ*, which hath ever been under the care of thoſe Officers, called in *Dutch*, *Pluymgraven*, whereby the Beer-Brewers are obliged to pay them the hundreth part for the uſe of the water.

Some men may here object that ſaying of *Antonius*, *I am Sovereign of the World, but the Law is Sovereign of the Sea.* Forcus in cap. Juris. cap. 9.

The

The True and Genuine ſenſe of thoſe words is this, I am Lord of the World, becauſe I Govern the World by my own Law; but the *Rhodian* Law, is the Law of the Sea, becauſe by this Law *Juſtice* is adminiſtred on the Sea; therefore let this caſe of *Eudæmon* concerning Navigation be determined by the *Rhodian* Law, ſo far as none of our Lawes doth oppoſe the ſame. There is no man unleſſe he will renounce his own Reaſon, who will affirme, that any Denial is made of the Dominion of the Sea in that Anſwer, or that the leaſt Tittle can be found in it againſt the Dominion thereof.

Having thus in general given you an account, that almoſt amongſt all Nations, there hath been allowed a Private Dominion of the Sea; we ſhall now come more particularly to our ſelves, and acquaint you, that the Antient *Brittains* did Enjoy and Poſſeſſe the Sea as Lords thereof, before they were ſubjected to the *Roman Power*: It is upon good ground concluded, that the moſt Antient Hiſtory, whereunto any credit ought to be given about the Affaires of

Brit-

Brittain, is not elder then the Time of *Cajus Julius Cæsar*, the Ages before him being too obscured with Fables; but at his coming we finde many clear passages of the *Brittains* Dominion of the Sea flowing about them, especially the South and East part thereof, as a perpetual Appendant of the Sovereignty of the Island; For at that time, they not onely used the Sea as their own, for Navigation, and Fishing, but also permitted none, besides Merchants to sayle into the Island without their leave; nor any Man at all to view, or sound their Sea-Coasts, or their Harbours: And though at *Cæsars* first Arrival, they were Terrified with the sight of his long ships beaked with Brass or Iron; and they fled to the shore, and from it to the In-lands, being not sufficiently provided for such a Sea-fight as was then at hand, and which they never had been acquainted with, yet most certain it is, that they had Vessels of their own in which they used to Coast about the Neighbouring Seas: And though mention is made by Writers, that commonly they were framed with

Seld. Mare Clausum 158.

with Twiggs (as the faſhion then was in the more Antient Nations) and covered with Oxe-Hides; yet with good ground we may conceive, that they were wont to Build, and ſet forth ſhips of War, of a far more commodious, and ſolid ſubſtance, for the Guarding of the Seas, and the Iſles: We read in *Cæſar's* Commentaries, that they were ſtrong at Sea, and it is not to be doubted, but that beſides their Twiggs and Leathern Veſſels, they had a conſiderable Navy which was able at pleaſure to Encounter the ſhips of their Neighbours that were beſt Armed: But the Southernly Parts of *Great Britain* being Invaded by the Emperour *Claudius*, and the Iſle of *Wight* ſurrendred to them; the *Britiſh* Sea, following the Fate of the Iſland, was annexed with it to the Roman Empire.

De Bello Gallico lib. 9.

From the Dominion of the *Britiſh* Sea, as being continually United to the Iſland, or an Inſeparable Concomitant thereof, many remarquable paſſages have proceeded amongſt thoſe who have left unto Poſterity the Atchievements of the *Romans*, when they were Maſters

Maſters of this Iſland : But when the *Roman* Empire was declining, and they had ſcarce Forces enough to Guard the City it ſelf, The *Brittains* about the Year of our Lord, Four Hundred and Fourſcore, did caſt off the *Roman* Government, and ſetled a Common-Wealth after their own liking : In the mean time the *Saxons* Inhabiting the Shoar over againſt them, had a great and greedy mind unto it, who being a People extreamly given to Piracy, the *Romans* were accuſtomed to appoint an Officer to drive them away, called, *The* Count *of the Saxon Shore throughout Brittain.* Theſe *Saxons* being ſent for by the *Brittains* to Aſſiſt them againſt the *Scots* and *Picts*, did get at length the whole Power into their own hand. Theſe *Saxons* being Arch Pirats, did not only know, but were familiarly acquainted with the Dangers of the Sea. The ſame may be ſaid of the *Danes* and *Normans*, for theſe names being promiſcuouſly uſed, do often ſignifie the ſame Nation, as is ſufficiently atteſted, by *Regino*, *Dudo*, the Monk of *Malmesbury*, and others : And theſe

Zoſimus Hiſt. lib. 6.

Bede, De Natura Rerum. cap. 28.

theſe People had ſo great and ſo admirable a Knowledge of the Sea, and Sea Affairs, that by an exquiſite obſervation of the Tides, and Ebbings of the Sea, they were accuſtomed to reckon their Months and Years, yea, and to frame Computations of years thereby. In Antient Records, diverſe particulars are to be ſeen, which moſt plainly ſhow, that both the *Saxons* and *Danes* had a Dominion over the Sea, whileſt they Reigned in *Brittain*.

M^r. *In Bibleotheca Cottoniana.*

In the Reign of the *Engliſh Saxons*, we read in *Aſſerius* Biſhop of *Sherburn*, that *Hengiſt* being invited into *England* by the Perſwaſions of *Vortigern*, there came preſently afterwards to recruit him *Oſta* and *Ebiſſa*, who putting Pirates aboard his ſhips, he charged them to Guard the paſſages of the Sea. You are to underſtand that the word Pirate was not then taken (as now commonly it is) for Robbers or Rovers, but for ſuch who being the moſt ſkilfull in Sea-Affairs, were judged to be the fitteſt Men to Encounter with their Enemies; The word, ſayes my Authour, doth ſeem to be deriv'd from the *Greek*,

for

for πειρᾶ, or *Pira*, in the *Greek* Tongue ſignifieth Craft, or Art, and from this Art in Maritine Diſcipline they are now called Pirates which infeſt the Seas. But amongſt theſe Kings none was more Potent then King *Edgar*, who poſſeſsing an Abſolute Dominion of the Seas, ſayled round about it every Year, and ſecured it with a conſtant Guard. It is Recorded that theſe ſhips being very ſtout ones, were in number One Thouſand Two Hundred; Other Writers affirm that they were Foure Thouſand; the Abbot of *Jorvaux*, *John Bramton* by name, doth number them to be Four Thouſand, and Eight Hundred ſayle: And what Dominion King *Edgar* had, as Abſolute Lord of the Sea, appears in theſe words; *I* Edgar *King of* England, *and of all the Kings of the Iſlands, and of the Ocean lying round about* Brittain, *and of all the Nations that are Included within the Circuit thereof Supream Lord and Governour, do render my thanks to Almighty GOD My KING, who hath Enlarged my Empire, and Exalted it above the Royal Eſtate of my Progenitors, who although they Arrived to the Monarchy*

Hunting. lib. 5.

Guil. Malmesb. lib. 2. cap. 8.

narchy of all England *ever since* Athelstan; *yet the Divine Goodness hath favoured me to Subdue all the Kingdomes of the Island in the Ocean with their most Stout and Mighty Kings, even as far as* Norway, *and the greatest part of* Ireland, *together with their most Famous City of* Dublin.

After him King *Canutus* left a Testimony whereby he most expresly Asserteth the Sea to be a part of his Dominion: For placing himself by the Sea side in the time of a High Tide upon *Southampton* shoare, he is reported to have made tryal of the Obedience of the Sea in this manner; *Thou, O Sea art under my Dominion, as the Land also which I sit upon is mine; And there was never any that disobeyed my Command without Punishment; Therefore I command thee not to ascend upon my Land, nor do thou presume to wet the Feet or Garments of Thy Sovereign*: But although the Event did not answer his Expectation, yet most plain it is, that here he openly professed himself to be Sovereign of the Seas, as well as of the Land.

From

From the Teſtimonies of the *Saxons* and *Danes*, we ſhall Deſcend to the Government of the *Normans*; where by many Notable and Cleer Proofs we ſhall finde; That

1. The Cuſtody, Government, or Admiralty of the *Engliſh* Sea did belong unto the King, together with the Dominion of the Adjacent *Iſlands*.

2. That the Leave of Paſſage through this Sea, was granted unto Forreigners upon Requeſt.

3. That the Liberty of *Fiſhing*, was upon Courteſie Allowed to Forreigners and Neighbours, and Protection given to the Fiſher-men.

4. That Laws, and Limits were Preſcribed to Forreigners; who being in Hoſtility the one with the other, but both in Amity with the *Engliſh*, made Prize of each other on the Sea.

5. The Records whereby this Dominion is expreſſely Aſſerted as a moſt Undoubted Right, and that not onely by the Kings, but by the Parliaments of *England*.

As for the Firſt, There is nothing more Cleer, than that the Kings of

England, have been Accustomed to Constitute Governours, or Commanders, who had a Charge to Guard the *English* Seas, and these were called *Custodes Navium*, or *Custodes Maritimi*. These were the Officers that were called *Butsecarli*, as may be gathered out of that Breviary of *England*, called *Doomes Day*: In this Number was *Thomas de Moleton*, who is Stiled Captain and Guardian of the Sea; and *Hugh de Cerquen*; Afterwards the Title of Guardians, was changed into that of Admiral, as is alleaged by *Thomas Walsingham*, in the days of *Edward* the First. We finde that in the days of *Edward* the third; The Principal End of Calling that Parliament, was concerning the Preservation of Peace, both by Land and Sea; giving us to understand, that the Land and Sea together made one entire Body of the Kingdome of *England*. In the time of *Richard* the Second, *Hugh Calverley* was made Admiral of the Sea, saith the same Author, and the Universal Custody of the Sea was committed by our Kings, to the High Admirals of *England*.

Rot. Pat. 48. Hen. 3.

22. Edw. 1.

2. Rich. 2.

And

And that the Dominion of the Seas, is properly in the Power and Juriſdiction of the King, may appear by thoſe Tributes and Cuſtomes that were Impoſed and Payed for the Guard and Protection of them; The Tribute called the *Danegeld*, was paid in the Time of the *Engliſh Saxons*, which amounted to four ſhillings upon every Hide of Land, for the defending of the Dominion by Sea. *Roger Houerden* affirmeth, that this was paid until the Time of King *Stephen*. Afterwards Subſidies have been demanded of the People in Parliament, upon the ſame Account; and in the Parliament-Records of King *Richard* the Second, it is Obſervable; That a Cuſtome was impoſed upon every Ship that paſſed through the *Northern* Admiralty, that is, from the *Thames* along the *Eaſtern* Shoare of *England* towards the *North-Eaſt*, for the Maintenance of a Guard for the Seas. Neither was this Impoſed onely upon the *Engliſh*, but alſo upon the Ships of Forreigners, payment was made at the Rate of ſix pence a Tun upon every Veſſell that paſſed by, ſuch Ships only

Annal. 1. part, page 276.

excepted, that brought Merchandize out of *Flanders* into *London*. If a Vessel were imployed to Fish for *Herrings*, it payed the Rate of Six pence a week upon every Tun; If for other kind of Fish, so much was to be payed every three weeks, as they who brought Coles to *London* from *New-Castle*, paid it every three Moneths; But if a Vessel were bound *North-wards*, to *Prussia*, *Scone*, or *Norway*, or any of the Neighbouring Countries, it payed a particular Custome according to the Weight and Proportion of the Freight; And if any were unwilling, it was Lawful to Compel them to pay.

In this Place we shall give you the Copy of the usual form of a Commission, whereby the High Admiral of *England* is Invested with Authority for the Guard of the Sea; it runneth in these Words,

Rot. Parl. 2 *Rich.* 2. part 2. Act 38.

WE Give and Grant to N. the Office of our Great Admiral of England, Ireland, Wales, and of the Dominions and Islands belonging to the same, also of our Town of Calais, and our Marches thereof, Normandy, Acquitayn, and

and Gaſcoign; and we have Made, Appointed, and Ordained: And by theſe Preſents we Make Appoint, and Ordain, Him the ſaid N. our Admiral of England, Ireland, and Wales, and our Dominions and Iſles of the ſame, our Town of Calais, and our Marches thereof, Normandy, Gaſcoign, and Aquitayn, as alſo General Governour over all our Fleets and SEAS of our ſaid Kingdomes of England, and Ireland, and our Dominions and Iſlands belonging to the ſame; And know ye further, that we of our eſpecial Grace, and upon certain knowledge, do Give and Grant to the ſaid N our Great Admiral of England, and Governour General over our Fleets and Seas aforeſaid; all manner of Juriſdictions, Authorities, Liberties, Offices, Fees, Profits Duties, Emoluments, Wracks of the Sea, caſt Goods, Regards, Advantages, Commodities, Prehemineuces, Priviledges whatſoever, to the ſaid Officer our Great Admiral of England and Ireland, and of the other Places and Dominions aforeſaid, in any manner Whatſoever Belonging or Appertaining.

Thus we ſee we have a continual Poſſeſſion or Dominion of the Kings of *England* by Sea, pointed out in very

Expresse Words for very many years; We may add to this, that it can be proved by words plain enough in the form of the Commissions, for the Command of High Admiral of *England*; that the Sea for whose Defence he was appointed by the King of *England*, who is Lord and Sovereign of it, was ever bounded towards the *South* by the Shores of *Aquitain*, *Normandy*, and *Picardy*; for although those Countries sometimes in the Possession of the *English* are now lost, and for many years under the Jurisdiction of the *French*, yet the whole Sea Flowing betwixt our *Britt ish Isles*, and the Provinces over against them, are by a Peculiar Dominion and Right of the King of *England* on those Seas, subject unto them whom he puts in Command over the *English* Fleet and Coasts, that there remaineth neither Place nor Use for any other Commanders of that kinde: And as for the *Islands* of *Gerneſey*, *Jerſey*, and the rest; Mr. *Selden* affirmeth, that before a Court of *Delegats* in *France*, in expresse terms it hath been acknowledged, that the King

of

of *England* hath ever been Lord, not onely of this Sea, but alſo of the *Iſlands* placed therein, *Par raiſon du Royalme d' Angleterre*, upon the Account of the Realm of *England*, or as they were Kings of *England*; And in the Treaty held at *Charters*, when *Edward* the Third Renounced his Claim to *Normandy*, and ſome other Counties of *France* that bordered upon the Sea; it was added, that no Controverſie ſhould remain touching the *Iſlands*, but that he ſhould hold all *Iſlands* whatſoever which he Poſſeſſed at that time, whither they lay before thoſe Countries ſ he held there, or others; For Reaſon required this, that he ſhould maintain his Dominion by Sea; And both *Gerneſey* and *Jerſey*, as well as the *Iſles* of *Wight* and *Man*, in ſeveral Treaties held betwixt the Kings of *England* and other Princes, are acknowledged not onely to lye neer unto the Kingdome of *England*, but to belong unto it. Seld. Mare Clauſum page 334.

But to give a greater Light to this Truth, we may from ſeveral Records produce many Teſtimonies; that the Kings of *England* have given leave un-

to Forreigners upon Requeſt to paſſe through their Seas, he gave permiſſion to *Ferrando Vrtis de Sarachione* a *Spaniard*, to Sail freely from the Port of *London* through his Kingdomes, Dominions, and Juriſdiction, to the Town of *Rochel*.

There are Innumerable Letters of ſafe Conducts in the Records, eſpecially of *Henry* the Fifth, and Sixth, whereby ſafe Port and Paſſage was uſually granted; And it is worthy of obſervation, that theſe kinde of Letters was uſually ſuperſcribed, and directed by thoſe Kings to their Governours of the Sea-Admirals, Vice-Admirals, and Sea-Captains,. And to clear all at once, the Kings of *England* have ſuch an abſolute Dominion in the *Engliſh* Seas, that they have called the Sea it ſelf their Admiralty. And this we finde in a Commiſſion of King *Edward* the Third; The Title whereof is, *De Navibus Arreſtandis & Capiendis*, For the Arreſting and Seizing of Ships: The Form of it runs in theſe Words; *The King to his beloved* Thomas de Wenlock *his Serjeant at Armes, and Lievtenant*

Rot. Fran. 5 Hen. 4.

nant, To our Beloved and Truſty Reginald de Cobham, *Admiral of our Fleet of Ships from the mouth of the River of* Thames, *towards the* Weſtern *parts Greeting: Be it known unto you, that we have appointed you with all the ſpeed that may be uſed by you, and ſuch as ſhall be Deputed by you; to Arreſt and Seize all Ships, Flie-Boats, Barks, and Burges of ten Tun burthen and upwards, which may happen to be found in my foreſaid ADMIRALTY (that is, in the Sea, reaching from the* Thames *Mouth, towards the South and Weſt) and to bring them ſpeedily, well, and ſufficiently Armed to* Sandwich, *&c. All Officers alſo in the ſaid* Admiralty, *are Commanded to yeild Obedience and Aſſiſtance upon the ſame Condition; Thus, That the Sea it ſelf was contained under the Name of the* Admiralty, *is moſt clearly manifeſt, by what already we have ſhown you.*

And as a Freedome of Paſſage, ſo alſo we do finde, that a Liberty of Fiſhing hath been obtained by Petition from the Kings of *England*, we have already made mention, that King *Richard* the Second, impoſed a Tribute upon all perſons whatſoever that uſed

Fiſhing

Fiſhing on his Seas. We read alſo, that *Henry* the Sixth, gave leave to the *French*, and other Forreigners, ſometimes for a Year, ſometimes but for ſix Moneths, to go and Fiſh throughout his Seas, provided that the Fiſhing-Boats and Buſſes, were not above thirty Tuns; And if any Forreigners, whither *French*, *Dutch* or others, ſhould Diſturb or Moleſt any of the Kings Subjects as they were Fiſhing, they were to looſe the benefit of their Licence.

Rot. Fran. 38 Hen. 6.

But in the *Eaſtern* Sea which waſheth the Coaſts of *York-ſhire*, and the Neighbouring Counties; It hath been an Antient Cuſtome for the *Hollanders* and *Zelanders* to obtain leave, by Petitioning to the Governour of *Scarborough* Caſtle. It is worth the while, ſaith the Reverend Mr. *Cambden*, to obſerve what an extraordinary gain the *Hollanders* and the *Zelanders* do make by fiſhing on the *Engliſh* Seas, having firſt obtained leave from the Caſtle of *Scarborough*; For the *Engliſh* have ever granted them leave to Fiſh, reſerving always the Honour, and the

Priviledge

Priviledge to themſelves, but through a negligence reſigning the Profit unto Strangers; for it is almoſt incredible (ſaith he) to believe what a vaſt ſum of Money the *Hollanders* do make by this Fiſhing upon our Coaſt; Mr. *Hitchock* alſo, in the time of Queen *Elizabeth*, preſented a Book to the Parliament written in the Engliſh Tongue concerning the Commodity of Fiſhing; in which he ſpecifies, that the *Hollanders* and *Zealanders* every year towards the latter end of ſummer, do ſend forth four or five hundred Veſſels called Buſſes, to Fiſh for Herrings in our *Eaſtern* Seas; but before they Fiſh, they aſk leave of *Scarborough*, they are his very Words. Care was alſo taken by K. *James*, that no Foreigner ſhould Fiſh on the *Engliſh* or *Iriſh* Seas without leave firſt obtained, and every year at the leaſt, this leave was renewed from the Commiſſioners for that purpoſe appointed at *London*. But the Reaſon why we do not ſo often meet with theſe Forms of Licences is, becauſe by the Leagues made with the Neighboring Princes, a Licence, or Freedom

of

of that kinde was so often allowed by both parties, that as long as the League was in Force, the Sea served as it were a Common Feild, as well for the Forreigner ỳ was in Amity, as for the King of *England* himself, who was the Lord and owner of it. But a remarkable Example of Fishing in this Nature we finde in the days of King *Henry* the Fourth. An Agreement was made betwixt the Kings of *England* and *France*, that the Subjects of both Kingdomes might freely Fish throughout that part of the Sea, which is bounded on this side by the Ports of *Scarborough* and *Southampton*, and on the other side by the Coast of *Flanders*, and the Mouth of the River of *Sein*; The time was also limited betwixt Autumn, and the beginning of *January*. And that the *French* might securely enjoy the Benefit of this Agreement, the King of *England* sent Letters unto all his Sea Captains and Commanders. By this we may plainly see, that these Limits wholy excluded the *French* from that part of the Sea which lies towards the West, and South-West, as also that which

which lieth North-Eaſt of them as being ſo limited by our *Henry* at his own pleaſure, as Lord and Soveraign of the whole.

There is amongſt the Records of *Edward* the Firſt an Inſcription, *Pro Hominibus Hollandiæ, &c.* For the Men of *Holland, Zealand*, and *Frieſland*, to have leave to Fiſh neer *Jernemuth*, now called *Yarmouth*; The Kings Letter for their Protection, runneth in theſe Words.

The King to his Beloved and Truſty, John de Buteturte *Warden of his Port of* Jernemuth *Greeting*; *For as much as we have been certified, that many men out of the Parts of* Holland, Zealand, *and* Freiſland *who are in Amity with us, intend now to come, and Fiſh in our Seas neer unto* Jernemuth, *we command you that publick Proclamation be made once or twice every week, that no Perſon whatſoever imployed abroad in our Service, preſume to cauſe any Injury, Trouble, Dammage, Hinderance, or Grievance to be done unto them, but rather when they ſtand in need, that you give them Advice, and Aſſiſtance in ſuch manner, that they may Fiſh and purſue their own*

Rot. Patent 23. Edvar.

own Advantage, without any Let or Impediment. In Testimony whereof, we have caused these our Letters to be made Patents, and to continue in Force until after the Feast of St. Martins *next ensuing.*

Here you see, that the King granteth a Protection to Fish, and he Limits it within the space of two Moneths. He alone also Protected the Fishermen upon the *German* Coast, nor might the Fishermen use any other kind of Vessels then what were Prescribed by our Kings. Upon which Accounts all kind of Fishing was sometimes prohibited, and sometimes admitted; this Restriction being added, hat they should Fish onely in such Vessels as were under the Burden of Thirty Tun; And this appears by the Letters of King *Edward* the Third concerning the Laws of Fishing, which were directed unto the Governours of several Ports, and Towns on the Eastern Shoar, the Words are these;

For as much as We have given Licence to the Fishermen of the Neighbouring Ports, and to others who shall be willing to come unto them for the Benefit of Fishing; that they

may

may Fiſh and make their own Advantage with Ships and Boats under the burden of thirty Tuns, any Prohibition or Commands of ours whatſoever to the contrary notwithſtanding, we command you to permitt the Fiſhermen of the ſaid Towns, and others who ſhall be willing to come to the ſaid places for the Beneſit of Fiſhing, to Fiſh, and make their own Advantage with Ships and Boats under thirty Tun, without any Let or Impediment, any Prohibitions or Commands of ours made to the contrary in any wiſe notwithſtanding.

This is evident alſo in the Records of King *Edward* the Fourth, for he inveſted three Perſons with Naval Power, whoſe Office it was to Protect and Guard the Fiſhermen upon the Coaſts of *Norfolk* and *Suffolk*; and the charges of the Guard were to be Defrayed by the Fiſhermen of the ſaid Seas at the pleaſure of the King of *England*, although they have Letters of Publick Security and Protection from Foreign Princes; Neither were any Perſons admitted to a Partnerſhip in this kind of Guard, except thoſe who were appointed by the King of *England*; leaſt by

by this means, perhaps it might Derogate from the *Engliſh* Right, which is a manifeſt Sign and Evidence of their Dominion, and Poſſeſſion of the place; And this may yet more clearly appear by the Laws and Limits uſually ſet by our Kings to ſuch Foreigners as were at Enmity with each other, but in Amity with the *Engliſh*: and to this effect, is the Proclamation of King *James*; who having made Peace with all Nations, did give equal Protection to the *Spaniards*, and the United *Netherlands*, at that time exerciſing Acts of great Hoſtility one againſt another; Our Pleaſure (ſaith he) and Commandment is to all our Officers and Subjects by Sea and Land that they ſhall Prohibite as much as in them lieth, all hovering of Men of War of either *Spaniard* or *Hollander* neer to the Entry of any of our Coaſts or Havens; and that they ſhall Reſcue and Succour all Merchants, and others that ſhall fall within the Danger of any ſuch as ſhall Await our Coaſts: And it is further to be obſerved, that as our Kings have very often Commanded

that

that all manner of perſons ſhould ceaſe from Hoſtility throughout all the ſpaces extended into their Territories by Sea; ſo they indulged the like Privilege for ever throughout the more Neighbouring Coaſts of the *French* ſhore, that all manner of Perſons, though Enemies to one another, ſhould ſecurely ſayle to, and fro, as it were, under the wings of an Arbitrator, or Moderatour of the Sea, and alſo freely ſhould uſe the Sea, according to ſuch ſpaces, and limits, as they were pleaſed at firſt to appoint, which without doubt is a clear Evidence of Dominion.

In this next place, I ſhall cite ſome of the Publick Records which are kept in the Tower of *London*, in which the Dominion of the Sea is expreſly Aſſerted, as belonging to the Kings of *England*; We Read, that *Edward* the Third in his Commiſſions given to *Geoffery de Say*, Governour or Commander of the Weſtern and Southern Seas, and to *John de Norwich* of the Northern, expreſſeth himſelf in theſe following words: *We calling to mind, that our Progenitors, the Kings of* England, Rot. Scotiæ 10. Edvar.

having before these times been Lords of the English Sea *on every side, yea and Defendors thereof against the Invasions of Enemies, do strictly Require and Charge you by the Duty and Allegiance wherein you stand bound, that you set forth to Sea with the Ships of the Ports, and the other Ships that are ready, and that you Arrest the other ships under our Command, and that with all Diligence you make search after the Gallies and Ships of War that are abroad against Us, and that stoutly and manfully you set upon them if they shall presume to bend their Course towards any part of our Dominions, or the Coasts of* Scotland, &c. Then followeth a Power to Press Seamen, and other matters of that kind.

We read also in the Reign of the said King, in the preferring of a certain Bill in Parliament (which is the voice of the Estates of the Realm) that he was usually accounted King or Sovereign of the Seas by all Nations; The Words in *French* are to this sence in *English*; *The Nation of the* English *were ever in the Ages past Renowned for Sea-Affairs in all Countries near the Seas, and they had also so numerous a Navy, that the People*

Rot. Parli. 46. Edv. 3.

ple of all Countries Eſteemed, and called the K. of Engl. *the K. or Sovereign of the Sea.*

Another Teſtimony to the ſame Effect we read in the Parliamentary Records of *Henry* the Fifth, where the Tenour of the Bill runs after this manner: *The Commons do pray, that ſeeing our Sovereign Lord the King, and his Illuſtrious Progenitors have ever been Lords of the Sea,* Rot. Parll. 8. Hen. 5. *and now ſeeing through Gods Grace it is ſo come to paſs, that our Lord the King is Lord of the Shores on both ſides of the Sea, ſuch a Tribute may be impoſed upon all Strangers paſſing through the ſaid Sea, for the Beneſit and Advantage of our ſaid Lord the King, as may ſeem agreeable to reaſon, for the ſafegard of the ſaid Sea.* The Anſwer ſubſcribed to the ſaid Bill, was, *Soit aviſe par le Roy*, which is, *Let the King Himſelf be adviſed of it.* For the King at that time Reſided in *France*, being Lord of that Country, as well by Conqueſt, as Inheritance; And *Humphrey* Duke of *Glocester* was then Preſident of the Parliament, and Leivtenant of *England*, by whom as the Kings Deputy, that Anſwer was given to the ſaid Bill; but when the King was pre-

ſent in perſon, *Le Roy S' adviſera*, the King will Adviſe, was the Anſwer from the Antient, down to our preſent times, in ſuch Bills as were to be paſſed into Acts; Many other Teſtimonies in this Nature may be produced, which for brevities ſake are purpoſely omitted.

Neither hath the High Court of Parliament onely given this Atteſtation to our Kings, as *Supream* and *Sovereign* of the Seas: But to confirme it, we ſhall produce the Teſtimonies of *Robert Belknap*, an Eminent Judge in the Time of *Richard* the Second, who affirmeth, that the Sea is Subject to the King, as a part of his Kingdom, or of the Patrimony of the Crown; And it appeareth by Publick Records, containing diverſe main points, touching which the Judges of the Land were to be conſulted for the good of the Common-Wealth, that the Kings Sea-Dominion, which they called, *The Antient Superiority of the Sea*, was a matter out of Queſtion amongſt all Lawyers of that Age, and Aſſerted by the Determinations and Cuſtomes of the Law of the Land,

Rich. 2. Fitz Herbert Tit. protection, 46.

Edw. Cook part 5. fol. 108. & in Com. ad Littleton, Sect. 439. fol. 260.

Land, and by the expreſs words of the Writs and Forms of the Actions themſelves.

Neither is this Truth confirmed only by our Laws, but by our Medals. There hath been a piece of Gold very often Coyned by our Kings, called a *Roſe-Noble*, which was ſtamped on the one ſide of it with a Ship, floting in the Sea, and a King Armed with a Sword and Shield, ſitting in the Ship it ſelf, as in a Throne, to ſet forth a Repreſentation of the *Engliſh* K. by Sea: The firſt Authour hereof was *Edward* the Third, when he Guarded his own Seas with a Numerous Navy, conſiſting of Eleven Hundred ſhips, at which time, as at others he marched victoriouſly through *France*: But what need we labour to produce ſo many Teſtimonies at home from our Records in the *Tower* and other places, from our High Courts of Parliament, from our Laws, from our Coyns, & from our Hiſtories, to prove this Truth; ſince it is acknowledged even by Forreigners themſelves whom it moſt concerneth, by their uſual ſtriking of ſayles, according to the antient

Custom by every ship of any Forreign Nation whatsoever, if they sayle near the Kings Navy, or any ship belonging to it at Sea, which is done not onely in Honour to the *English* King, but also in acknowledgement of His Sovereignty, and Dominion at Seas. The Antiquity of this Custome, and that it hath been in use for above these Four Hundred years may appear by this following testimony: *At* Hastings, *a Town scituate upon the Shore of* Sussex, *it was Decreed by K.* John, *in the Second Year of His Reign, with the Assent of His Peers, That if the Governour, or Commander of the Kings Navy in His Naval Expeditions shall meet with any Ships whatsoever by Sea, either Laden or Empty, that shall refuse to strike their sayles at the Command of the Kings Governour or Admiral, or his Lievtenant, but make resistance against any who belong unto his Fleet, that then they are to be repated Enemies, and if they be taken, their Ships and Goods to be Confiscated, as the Goods of Enemies; And that, although the Masters or Owners of the Ships shall Alledge afterwards, that the same Ships and Goods do belong to the Friends and Allies of our Lord*

Mr. Commentar de Rebus Admiral, fol. 28.

the

the King, yet the perſons who ſhall be found in theſe Ships, are to be puniſhed with Imprisonment at diſcretion, for their Rebellion. It was accounted Treaſon (ſaith Maſter *Selden*) *If any ſhip whatſoever had not acknowledged the Dominion of the King of* England *in His own Sea by ſtriking ſayle, and they were not to be protected upon the Account of Amity, who ſhould in any wiſe preſume to do the contrary; Penalties were alſo appointed by the Kings of* England *in the ſame manner, as if mention were made concerning a Crime committed in ſome Territory of his Land.*

But above all, that as yet hath been ſaid, there can hardly be alledged a more convincing Argument, to prove the Truth of all that hath hitherto been ſpoken, then the Acknowledgement of the Sea-Dominion of the King of *England* by very many of our Neighbouring Nations. At what time the Agreement was made by *Edward* the Firſt of *England*, and *Philip* the Fair of *France*, *Reyner Grimbald*, Governour of the *French* Navy, Intercepted and Spoyled, on the *Engliſh Seas*, the Goods of many Merchants that were going to

Rot. Parl. 31 Edw. 1. Membran. 16.

Flanders, as well *English*, as *Others*, and not contented with the Depredation of their Goods, He Imprisoned also their Persons, and delivered them up to the Officers of the King of *France*, and in a very insolent manner justified his Actions in Writing, as done by Authority of the King his Masters Commission. This being alledged to be done to the great Damage and Prejudice of the King of *England*, the Prelats, Peers, and the rest of the Nation, a Bill against *Reyner Grimbald*, was exhibited, and managed by Procurators on the behalf of the Prelates, Peers, and of the Cities and Towns throughout *England*, and lastly, of the whole *English* Nation, by an Authority (as I believe) of the Estates Assembled in Parliament; with these were joyned the Procurators of most Nations bordering upon the Sea throughout *Europe*, (*Viz.*)

The *Genoeses*,	The *Hollanders*,
The *Catalonians*,	The *Freislanders*,
The *Spaniards*,	The *Danes*,
The *Almayns*,	The *Norwegians*,
The *Zealanders*,	The *Hamburghers*, &c.

All

All theſe inſtituted a Complaint againſt *Reyner Grimbald* who was Governour of the *French* Navy, in the time of the War of *Philip* King of *France*, and *Guy* Earle of *Flanders*; And all theſe Complainants in their Bill do joyntly affirm, that the King of *England* and his Predeceſſors have time out of minde and without Controverſie, *Enjoyed the Soveraignty and Dominion of the* Engliſh *Seas, and the Iſles belonging to the ſame by Right of their Realm of* England, *that is to ſay, by Preſcribing Laws, Statutes and Prohibitions of Armes, and of Ships otherwiſe furniſhed, then with ſuch neceſſaries, and Commodities as belong to Merchants, and by demanding Security, and affording protection in all places where need ſhould require, and ordering all other things neceſſary for the conſervation of Peace, Right, and Equity between all ſorts of People paſſing through that Sea, as well Strangers as others in Subjection to the Crown of* England; *Alſo that they have had, and have the Soveraign Guard thereof with all manner of Cogniſance, and Juriſdiction in doing Right and Juſtice, according to the ſaid Laws, Ordinances and Prohibitions, and*

Ibidem ut Supra.

and in all other matters which may concern the Exercise of Soveraign Dominion in the said places.

This is the Declaration of the Nations above named, manifestly acknowledging the Sovereignty and Dominion of our Kings over the Seas, and thereupon demanding protection for themselves; But more particularly we do finde an acknowledgment of the Sea-Dominions of the Kings of *England*, made by the *Flemmings* themselves in the Parliament of *England*, in the Reign of *Edward* the Second; the Records of the Parliament speak it thus.

Tilius in Recueil. destraictes, fol. 4.

Rot. Parl. 14. Edvar. 2. Membran 26.

In the Fourteenth Year of the Reign of Edward *the Second, there appeared certain Ambassadours of the Earl of* Flanders, *to Treat about the Reformation of some Injuries they received; and as soon as the said Ambassadours had been admitted by our Lord the King to Treat of the said Injuries, amongst other particulars they required, that the said Lord the King would at his own Suit, by Vertue of his Royal Authority, cause Enquiry to be made, and do Justice about a Depredation by the Subjects of* England

land *upon the* English *Seas, taking Wines and other sort of Merchandizes belonging to certain Merchants of* Flanders, *towards the parts of* Crauden *within the Territory and Jurisdiction of the King of* England; *Alledging that the said Wines and other Merchandizes taken from the* Flemmings *were brought within the Realm, and Jurisdiction of the King, and that it belonged to the King to see Justice done, in Regard that* HE IS LORD OF THE SEA, *and the aforesaid Depredation was made upon the said Sea within his Territory, and Jurisdiction,* &c. This we have Cited out of the Parliament Records which may Declare an Acknowledgement of the Sea-Dominion of our Kings, made by those Foreign and Neighbour-Nations who were most concerned in the Business.

Having given you thus (besides the Attestation of our own Writers) the acknowledgment of Foreign Nations, that the King of *England* hath the Dominion of the Seas; we shall now come to give you an Account of those *Northern* Seas, which came unto the Subjection of the Kings of *England*, at what

what time King *James* of Blessed Memory by reducing the two Nations into one Great *Brittanie* United the Crown of *Scotland* to the Crown of *England*. *Odericus* in his Ecclesiastical History informs us, that the *Orcades* was subject heretofore to the King of *Norway*, and that the people of the *Orcades* do speak the *Gothish* Language to this day; these *Isles* are Numerous, and onely Twenty Eight of them are at this day Inhabited. Above One Hundred Miles beyond the *Orcades* towards *Norway*, are the *Shetland* Isles in Number Eighteen, which are at this day Inhabited, and in subjection to the King of *Scotland*; concerning which, there hath been a great Quarrel in former Ages between the *Scots* and *Danes*, but the *Dane* kept the Possession. All these *Islands*, did *Christiern* King of *Denmark* peaceably Surrender, together with his Daughter in Marriage, to *James* King of *Scots*, until that either he himself or his Posterity paid to the *Scottish* King or his Successors the sum of Fifty Thousand *Rhenish Florens*, which were never discharged to this day;

Cambd. in Insul. Britan. p. 849.

day; But afterwards when the Queen had been delivered of Her Eldeſt Son, the *Daniſh* King being willing to Congratulate his Daughters good Delivery, did for ever Surrender his Right in the *Iſlands* of the *Orcades*, *Shetland*, & the reſt unto the *Scottiſh* King. This was in the days of *James* the Third of *Scotland* in the Year, 1468. A Claim was afterwards laid to *Iſeland*, by Q. *Elizabeth*, And her Succeſſor K. *James* the Sixth of *Scotland*, and firſt of *England*, hath a Dominion in the Sea which lieth farr more *Northerly* then *Iſeland* which is that of *Greenland*; For that Sea having never been entred by Occupation, nor uſed in the Art and Exerciſe of Fiſhery, was firſt of all rendered very gainful through a peculiar Fiſhing for *Whales* by thoſe *Engliſh* Merchants of the *Muſcovie* Company, who firſt Sailed that way. The uſe of a Sea never entred by Occupation, and ſuch a kinde of profit being firſt diſcovered, doth according to the manner of the Claim give a Dominion to the Diſcoverer, who claims it in the Right of another, as here in the Name of the Sovereign

Cambden Annal. Elizab.

Soveteign of *England*; Upon which ground it was, that King *James* in his Letters of Credence given to his Ambassadour in *Holland*, Sir *Henry Wotton* did very justly say that the Fishing in the North Seas was His onely, and His by Right.

In the Seventh year of the Reign of King *James*, this Right was more strenuously asserted by Proclamation, and all persons excluded from the use of the Seas upon our Coasts, without particular License, the Grounds whereof you have here set down in the Proclamation it self.

A Proclamation, Touching Fishing.

JAMES by the Grace of God King of Great Brittain, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all and singular persons to whom it may appertein, Greeting. Although we do sufficiently know by Our Experience in the Office of Regal Dignity (in which, by the Favor of Almighty God, We have been placed

placed and exercised these many years) as also by the observation which We have made of other Christian Princes exemplarie actions, how farr the absolutenesse of Sovereign Power extendeth it self, and that in regard thereof, We need not yield account to any person under God, for any action of Ours, which is lawfully grounded upon that Just Prerogative: Yet such hath ever been, and shall be Our care and desire to give satisfaction to Our Neighbour-Princes, and Friends in any action which may have the least relation to their Subjects and Estates, as We have thought good (by way of friendly premonition) to declare unto them, and to whomsoever it may appertain as followeth.

Whereas we have been contented since Our coming to the Crown, to tolerate an indifferent and promiscuous kinde of liberty to all Our Friends whatsoever, to Fish within Our Streams, and upon any of Our Coasts of Great Britain, Ireland, and other adjacent Ilands, so farr forth as the permission or use thereof might not redound to the impeachment of Our Prerogative Royal, nor to the Hurt and Damage of our loving Subjects, whose preservation and flourishing Estate We hold Our self principally bound to advance before all worldly respects: So finding that Our continuance therein, hath not onely

given

given occasion of over-great encroachments upon Our Regalities, or rather questioning of Our Right, but hath been a means of daily wrongs to Our own People that exercise the Trade of Fishing, as (either by the multitude of strangers which do pre-occupie those places, or by the injuries which they receive most commonly at their hands) Our Subjects are constrained to abandon their Fishing, or at least are become so discouraged in the same, as they hold it better for them, to betake themselves to some other course of living; whereby not onely divers of Our Coast-Towns are much decayed, but the number of Mariners daily diminished, which is a matter of great consequence to Our Estate, considering how much the strength thereof consisteth in the Power of Shipping and use of Navigation; We have thought it now both just and necessary (in respect that We are now by God's favor lineally and lawfully possessed, as well of the Islands of Great Brittain, as of Ireland, and the rest of the Isles adjacent) to bethink Our selves of good lawful means to prevent those inconveniences and many others depending upon the same. In consideration whereof, as We are desirous that the world may take notice, that we have no intention to denie Our Neighbours and Allies, those fruits

and

and benefits of Peace and Friendship, which may be justly expected at Our hands in Honour and Reason, or are afforded by other Princes mutually in the point of Commerce, and Exchange of those things which may not prove prejudicial to them: so because some such convenient order may be taken in this matter, as may sufficiently provide for these important considerations which do depend thereupon; We have resolved first to give notice to all the world that Our Express Pleasure is, That from the beginning of the Moneth of August next coming, no Person of what Nation or Quality soever, being not Our natural born Subjects, be permitted to Fish upon any of Our Coasts & Seas of Great Britain, Ireland, and the rest of the Isles adjacent, where most usually heretofore any Fishing hath been, until they have orderly demanded and obtained Licenses from Us, or such Our Commissioners, as we have Authorised in that behalf, viz. at London for Our Realms of England and Ireland, and at Edenborough for Our Realm of Scotland, which Licenses Our intention is, shall be yearly demanded, for so many Vessels and Ships, and the Tonnage thereof, as shall intend to Fish for that whole year, or any part thereof, upon any of Our Coasts, and Seas as aforesaid, upon pain of such chastisement,

as shall be fit to be inflicted upon such wilful Offenders.

Given at our Palace of Westminster *the 6. day of* May *in the 7th. year of Our Reign of* Great Brittain, *Anno Dom.* 1609.

Notwithstanding this Proclamation, the *Netherlanders* proceeded still in their way of encroachment upon our Seas and Coasts; through the whole Reign of King *James*, and were at length so bold as to contest with him, and endeavour to quarrel His Majesty out of his Rights, pretending, because of the long connivence of Himself and Queen *Elizabeth*, that they had a Right of their own by *Immemorial Possession*; which some Commissioners of theirs that were sent over hither, had the confidence to plead *in Terminis*, to the King and his Council. And though the King, out of his tenderness to them insisted still upon his own Right, by his Council to those Commissioners, and by his Ambassadour to their Superiors, yet they made no other use of his indulgence, than to tire out

out his whole Reign, and abuſe his patience by their artificial Delays, Pretences, Shifts, Dilatorie Addreſſes, and Evaſive Anſwers. And all that the King gained by the tedious diſputes, overtures, and diſpatches to and again, was in concluſion onely a Verbal acknowledgment of thoſe Rights; which at the ſame time that they acknowledged, they uſually deſigned to invade with much more inſolence than before. But you have the main of what paſſed in thoſe days in this particular, with their inſolent demeanour, lively deſcribed in theſe following Collections, taken out of ſeveral Diſpatches that paſſed betwixt Secretarie *Naunton*, and Sir *Dudly Carlton* Lord Ambaſſadour from the King, to the States of the *United Provinces*.

The Hollanders *Inſolence.*

In a Letter of Secretarie Naunton's *to the said Ambassadour, dated at* Whitehall *the* 21. *of* December 1618. *I finde these passages.*

I Must now let your Lordship know, that the States Commissioners and Deputies both, having attended His Majesty at *New-Market*, and there presented their Letters of Credence, returned to *London* on *Saturday* was a seven-night, and upon *Tuesday* had Audience in the Council-Chamber; where being required to communicate the points of their Commission, they delivered their meditated Answer at length, The Lords upon perusal of it, appointed my Lord *Bining* and me to attend His Majesty for directions, what Reply to return to this Answer of theirs; which I represented to their Lordships yesterday to this effect: That his Majesty found it strange, that they having been so often required by your Lordship His Majesties Ambassadour, as from himself, in their publique Assembly, to send over Commissioners

miſſioners fully Authorized to Treat and Conclude, not onely of all differences grown between the Subjects of both States, touching the Trade to the *Eaſt-Indies*, and the *Whale-Fiſhing*, and to Regulate and ſettle a Joynt and an even Traffick in thoſe Quarters, but withal to take order for a more indifferent courſe of determining other Queſtions, growing between our Merchants and them about their Draperies and the Tare; And more eſpecially to determine his Majeſties *Right for the ſole Fiſhing upon all the Coaſts of his Three Kingdoms*, into which they had of late times incroached farther then of Right they could; And laſtly, for the regleement and reducing of their Coyns to ſuch a proportion and correſpondence with thoſe of his Majeſties and other States, that their Subjects might make no Advantage to tranſport our Monies by inhanſing their valuation there: All which they confeſſed your Lordſhip had inſtanced them for in his Majeſties Name; that after all this attent on his Majeſties part, and ſo long deliberation on theirs, they were come at laſt with

a Propoſition to ſpeak only to the two firſt points, and inſtructed thereunto with bare Letters of Credance only, which His Majeſty takes for an Imperious faſhion of proceeding in them, as if they were come hither to Treat of what themſelves pleaſed, and to give Law to His Majeſty in his own Kingdom, and to propoſe and admit of nothing but what ſhould tend meerly to their own ends.

Their Imperious faſhion of Treating.

To the ſecond; Whereas they would decline all debate of the Fiſhings upon His Majeſties Coaſts, firſt by Allegations of their late great Loſſes and an *Eſmeute* of their people, who are all intereſſed in that Queſtion, and would be like to break out into ſome combuſtion to the hazard of their State which hath lately ſcaped *Naufrage*, and is not yet altogether calmed; What is this but to raiſe an advantage to themſelves out of their diſadvantage? But afterwards they profeſſe their lothneſſe to call it in doubt or Queſtion, claiming an immemorial poſſeſſion ſeconded by the Law of Nations; To which His Majeſty will have them told; that the

Kings

Kings of *Spain* have ſought leave to Fiſh there by Treaty from this Crown; and that the King of *France* (a nearer Neighbour to our Coaſt then they) to this day requeſts leave for a few Veſſels to Fiſh for Proviſion of his own houſhold; And that it appears ſo much the more ſtrange to His Majeſty, that they being a State of ſo late date, ſhould be the firſt that would preſume to queſtion His Majeſties Antient Right, ſo many hundred yeers inviolably poſſeſſed by His Progenitors, and acknowledged by all other Antient States and Princes. That themſelves in their publick Letters of the laſt of *June*, ſent by your Lordſhip, ſeemed then to confirm their immemorial poſſeſſion (as they term it) with divers Treaties, as are of the year, 1550. and another between His Majeſties Predeceſſors and *Charles* the Fifth, as Prince of thoſe Provinces, and not by the Law of Nations. To which their laſt Plea, His Majeſty would have them told, that he being an Iſlander-Prince, is not ignorant of the Laws and Rights of his own Kingdoms, nor doth expect to be taught the

Laws of Nations by them, nor their *Grotius*, whose ill thriving might rather teach others to disavow his Positions; and his honesty called in question by themselves, might render his Learning as much suspected to them, as his Person. This His Majesty takes for an high point of his Soveraignty, and will not have it slighted over in any fashion whatsoever.

Thus I have particulated unto you the manner of our proceeding with them; Let them advise to seek leave from His Majesty, and to acknowledge Him, His Right, as other Princes have done, and do; or it may well come to passe, that they that will needs bear all the World before them, by their *Mare Liberum*, may soon come to have neither *Terram & Solum*, nor *Rempublicam liberam*.

And in a Letter of the ſaid Lord Ambaſſadour Carlton *to Secretary* Naſmton, *of the* 30. *of* December, 1618. *from the* Hague, *we finde this Return, touching the buſineſs of* Fiſhery.

WHether the final reſolution here will be according to His Majeſties deſire, in that point concerning the Fiſhing upon the Coaſts of His Three Kingdomes, I cannot ſay; And by ſomewhat which fell from the Prince of *Orange*, by way of Diſcourſe when he took leave of me on *Monday* laſt, at his Departure; I ſuſpect it will not, in regard the Magiſtrates of theſe Towns of *Holland*, being newly placed, and yet ſcarce faſt in their Seats, who do Authorize the Deputies which come hither to the Aſſembly of the States in all things they are to Treat and Reſolve, will not Adventure for fear of the people, to determine of a Buſineſs, on which the livelihood of Fifty Thouſand of the Inhabitants of this one ſingle Province doth depend. I told the Prince, that howſoever His Majeſty

Majesty, both in Honour of His Crown and Person, and Interest of his Kingdoms, neither could nor would any longer desist, from having His Right acknowledged by this State, as well as by All other Princes and Commonwealths, especially finding the same openly oppugned both by their Statesmen, and men of War, as the Writings of *Grotius*, and the taking of *John Brown* the last year may testifie; yet this acknowledgment of a Right and a Due was no exclusion of Grace and Favour; and that the people of this Country paying that small Tribute upon every one of their Busses, (which is not so much as disputed by any other Nation whatsoever) such was His Majesties well-wishing to this State, that I presumed of his permission to suffer them to continue their course of Fishing; which they might use thereby with more Freedom, and less apprehension of molestation and let then before, and likewise spare the Cost of some of their Men of War, which they yearly send out to maintain that by force, which they may have of Courtesie.

The

The Prince answered, that for himself at His Return from *Utrecht*, he would do his best endeavour to procure His Majesty contentment, but he doubted the *Hollanders* would apprehend the same effect in their payment for Fishing, as they found in the passage of the *Sound*, where at first an easie matter was demanded by the King of *Denmark*, but now more exacted then they can possibly bear: And touching their Men of War, he said, they must still be at the same charge with them, because of the Pirates. Withal, he cast out a question to me, whether this freedom of Fishing might not be redeemed with a summ of money? To which I answered, It was a matter of Royalty more then of Utility, though Princes were not to neglect their profit.

And in another Letter of the said Lord Ambassadour from the Hague *to Secretary* Naunton, *of the* 14. *of* January, 1618. *He gives him to understand, That* having been expostulated with, but in friendly manner, by certain of the *States* about his late Proposition, as unseasonable

ble and sharp, *they said*, they acknowledge their *Commissioners* went beyond their limits in their terms of *Immemorial possession* and *immuable Droict de Gens*; for which they had no order. Then, *saith he*, I desire them to consider, what a wrong it is to challenge that upon right, which these Provinces have hitherto enjoyed, either by connivence or courtesie, and yet never without claim on His Majesties side, *&c.*

In another Letter of Secretary Naunton's *to the Lord Ambassadour* Carlton, *of the* 21. *of* January, 1618. *we read thus:*

AS I had dictated thus far, I received direction from His Majesty to signifie to the *States-Commissioners* here; That albeit their earnest entreaty and His Gracious consideration of the present trouble of their Church and State, had moved His Majesty to consent to delay the Treaty of the great Fishing, till the time craved by the Commissioners;

Commissioners; yet understanding by new and fresh complaints of His Mariners and Fishers upon the Coasts of *Scotland*, that within these four or five last years, the Low-Country-Fishers have taken so great advantage of His Majesties Tolleration, that they have grown nearer and nearer upon His Majesties Coasts year by year, then they did in preceeding Times, without leaving any Bounds for the Country-People and Natives to Fish upon their Prince's Coasts, and oppressed some of His Subjects of intent to continue their pretended possession; and driven some of their great Vessels through their Nets to deter others by fear of the like violence from Fishing near them, *&c.* His Majesty cannot forbear to tell them that he is so well perswaded of the Equity of the *States*, and of the Honourable respect they bear unto him, and to His Subjects for His sake, that they will never allow so unjust and intolerable Oppressions, for restraint whereof, and to prevent the inconveniences which must ensue, upon the continuance of the same, His Majesty hath by

me

me desired them to write to their Superiours to cause Proclamation to be made, prohibiting any of their Subjects to Fish within Fourteen Miles of His Majesties Coasts this year, or in any time hereafter, untill order be taken by Commissioners to be authorised on both sides, for a final setling of the main business. His Majesty hath likewise directed me to command you from Him, to make the like Declaration and Instance to the *States* there, and to certifie His Majesty of their Answer, with what convenient speed you may.

The farr Secretary Naunton *to the Ambassadour.*

Now what effect the Ambassadour's Negotiation with the States *had, appears by a Letter of his from the* Hague, *of the 6. of* February, 1618. *to Kings* James *himself; where, among other passages he hath this.*

I finde likewise in the manner of proceeding, that treating by way of Proposision

Propoſition here, nothing can be exſpected but their wonted dilatory and evaſive Anſwers; their manner being to refer ſuch Propoſitions from the *States General* to the *States* of *Holland*. The *States* of *Holland* take advice of a certain Councel reſiding at *Delph*, which they call the Council of the *Fiſhery*. From them ſuch an Anſwer commonly comes, as may be expected from ſuch an Oracle. The way therefore (under correction) to effect Your Majeſties intent, is to begin with the Fiſhers themſelves, by publiſhing, againſt the time of their going out, Your reſolution, at what diſtance You will permit them to Fiſh, whereby they will be forced to have recourſe to their *Council of Fiſhery*; that Councel to the *States* of *Holland*; and thoſe of *Holland* to the States-General, who then in place of being ſought unto, will for contentment of their Subjects, ſeek unto Your Majeſty.

A Proclamation by King *Charles* the First, For restraint of *Fishing* upon His Seas and Coasts without *Licence*.

WHereas Our Father of Blessed Memory King James, did in the Seventh Year of His Reign of Great Britain, set forth a Proclamation touching Fishing whereby for the many important Reasons therein expressed, all Persons, of what Nation or Quality soever (being not His Natural born Subjects) were restrained from Fishing upon any the Coasts and Seas of Great Britain, Ireland, and the rest of the Isles adjacent, where most usually heretofore Fishing had been, until they had orderly demanded, and obtained Licenses from Our said Father, or His Commissioners in that behalf, upon paine of such Punishment as should be fit to be inflicted upon such wilful Offenders: since which time, albeit neither Our said Father, nor Our Self have made any considerable execution of the said Proclamation, but have with much Patience expected a voluntary conformity of Our Neighbours

Neighbours and Allies, to so just and reasonable Prohibitions and Directions as are contained in the same.

And now finding by experience, that all the inconveniences which occasioned that Proclamation, are rather increased then abated: We being very sensible of the premises, and well knowing how farr We are obliged in Honour to maintain the rights of Our Crown, especially of so great consequence, have thought it necessary, by the Advice of our Privy Council to renew the aforesaid restraint of Fishing upon Our aforesaid Coasts & Seas, without Licenſe first obtained from Us, and by these presents to make publick Declaration, that Our resolution is (at times convenient) to keep such a competent Strength of Shipping upon Our Seas, as may (by God's blessing) be sufficient, both to hinder such further encroachments upon Our Regalities, and assist and Protect those Our Good Friends and Allies who shall henceforth, by virtue of Our Licenses (to be first obtained) endeavour to take the benefit of Fishing upon Our Coasts and Seas, in the places accustomed.

Given at our Palace of Westminster *the* 10 *day of May, in the Twelfth year of our Reign of* England, Scotland, France *and* Ireland.

This Proclamation being set forth in the year, 1636. served to speak the intent of those Naval preparations made before in the year, 1635. which were so numerous and well-provided, that our *Netherland* Neighbours being touched with the apprehension of some great design in hand for the Interest of *England* by Sea, and of the guilt that lay upon their own Consciences, for their bold Encroachments, soon betrayed their Jealousies and Fears, and in them a sense of their offences, before ever the Proclamation was made publick: As I might shew at large (if it were requisite) by certain Papers of a publick Character yet in being. But there is one, *Instar omnium*, which may serve in stead of all; and it is an acute Letter of Secretary *Coke's*, that was written to Sir *William Boswel*, the Kings Resident then at the *Hague*, the Original whereof is still reserved among the publick Papers: In which Letter, he sets forth the Grounds and Reasons of preparing that gallant Navy, with the Kings resolution to maintain the Right derived from his Ancestors, in

the

the Dominion of the Seas; and therefore I here render a true Copy of it, so farr as concerns this business, as most pertinent to our purpose.

(SIR,)

BY Your Letters and otherwise, I perceive many jealousies and discourses are raised upon the preparations of His Majesties Fleet, which is now in such forwardness, that we doubt not but within this Month it will appear at Sea. It is therefore expedient both for your satisfaction and direction, to inform you particularly what was the occasion, and what is His Majesties intention in this work.

First, we hold it a principle not to be denied, That the King of Great *Britain*, is a Monarch at Land and Sea to the full extent of His Dominions, and that it concerneth him as much to maintain His Soveraignty in all the *British* Seas, as within His three Kingdoms: because without that, these cannot be kept safe; nor he perceive

his honour and due respect with other Nations. But commanding the Seas, he may cause his Neighbours and all Countries to stand upon their guard whensoever he thinks fit. And this cannot be doubted that whosoever will encroach upon him by Sea, will do it by Land also, when they see their time. To such presumption *Mare liberum* gave the first warning-piece, which must be answered with a defence of *Mare clausum*: not so much by Discourses, as by the louder Language of a powerful Navy, to be better understood; when overstrained patience seeth no hope of preserving her Right by other means.

The Degrees by which his Majesties Dominion at Sea hath of latter years been first impeached and then questioned, are as considerable as notorious.

First, to cherish, and as it were to nourish up our unthankful Neighbors, We gave them leave to gather wealth and strength upon our Coasts, in our Ports, by our Trade, and by our People. Then they were glad to invite our Merchants Residence, with what priviledges they would desire. Then

they

they offered to us even the Soveraignty of their Eſtates, and then they ſued for Licenſe to Fiſh upon the Coaſts, and obtained it under the Great Seal of *Scotland*, which now they ſuppreſſe. And when thus by leave or by connivence, they had poſſeſſed themſelves of our Fiſhings, not onely in *Scotland*, but in *Ireland* and *England*, and by our Staple had raiſed a great ſtock of Trade; by theſe means they ſo encreaſed their Shiping and power at Sea, that now they endure not to be kept at any diſtance: Nay, they are grown to that confidence to keep guards upon our Seas; and then to project an Office and Company of Aſſurance for the Advancement of Trade; and withal, prohibit us free commerce even within our Seas, and take our Ships and goods, if we conform not to their *Placarts*. What inſoloncies and cruelties they have committed againſt us heretofore, in *Ireland*, in *Greenland*, and in the *Indies*, is too well known to all the world. In all which, though our ſufferings and their wrong may ſeem forgotten, yet the great intereſt of His Majeſties

honour, is ſtill the ſame, and will refreſh their Memories as there ſhall be cauſe. For, though charity muſt remit wrongs done to private men, yet the reflection upon the publick may make it a greater charity to do Juſtice on crying crimes. All this notwithſtanding, you are not to conceive that the work of this Fleet, is either revenge or execution of Juſtice for theſe great offences paſt, but chiefly for the future to ſtop the violent Current of that preſumption whereby the Men of War and Free-booters of all Nations (abuſing the favour of His Majeſties peaceable and gracious Government, whereby he hath permitted all His Friends and Allies, to make uſe of His Seas and Ports in a reaſonable and free manner, and according to his Treaties) have taken upon them the boldneſs, not only to come confidently at all times into all his Ports and Rivers, but to convey their Merchants ſhips as high as his chief City, and then to caſt Anchor cloſe upon his Magazins, and to contemn the Commands of his Officers, when they required a farther diſtance;

ſtance: But which is more intolerable, have aſſaulted and taken one another within his Majeſties Chamber, and within his Rivers, to the ſcorn and contempt of his Dominion and Power; and this being of late years an ordinary practice which we have endeavoured in vain to reform by the ways of Juſtice and Treaties, the world I think will now be ſatisfied, that we have reaſon to look about us. And no wiſe man will doubt that it is high time to put our ſelves in this Equipage upon the Seas, and not to ſuffer that Stage of Action to be taken from us for want of our appearance.

So you ſee the general ground upon which our Counſels ſtands. In particular, you may take notice, and publiſh as cauſe requires, That His Majeſty by this Fleet intendeth not a Rupture with any Prince or State, nor to infringe any point of his Treaties; but reſolveth to continue and maintain that happy peace wherewith God hath bleſſed his Kingdom, and to which, all his Actions and Negotiations have hitherto tended, as by your own in-

ſtructions you may fully underſtand. But withal conſidering, that Peace muſt be maintained by the arme of power, which onely keeps down War by keeping up Dominion; His Majeſty thus provoked, finds it neceſſary even for his own defence and ſafety, to re-aſſume and keep his antient and undoubted Right in the Dominion of theſe Seas, and to ſuffer no other Prince or State to encroach upon him, thereby aſſuming to themſelves or their Admirals, any Soveraign command: but to force them to perform due homage to his Admirals and Ships, and to pay them acknowledgements, as in former times they did. He will alſo ſet open and protect the free Trade both of his Subjects and Alies: And give them ſuch ſafe Conduct and Convoy, as they ſhall reaſonably require. He will ſuffer no other Fleets or Men of War to keep any guard upon theſe Seas, or there to offer violence or take prizes or booties, or to give interruption to any lawfull intercourſe. In a word, his

Majeſty

Majeſty is reſolved, as to do no wrong, ſo to do Juſtice both to his Subjects and Friends, within the limits of his Seas. And this is the real and Royal deſign of this Fleet, whereof you may give part as you finde occaſion to our good Neighbours in thoſe parts, that no Umbrage may be taken of any hoſtile act or purpoſe to their prejudice in any kinde. So wiſhing you all health and happineſs, I reſt

Your Aſſured friend

White-hall, *and Servant,*

16. *April*, 1635. JOHN COOKE.

our ſtyle.

The

The inestimable Riches and Commodities of the Brittish *Seas*

THe Coasts of Great *Brittain* do yield such a continual Sea-harvest of gain, and benefit to all those that with diligence do labour in the same, that no time or season in the year passeth away without some apparent means of profitable imployment, especially, to such as apply themselves to Fishing, which from the beginning of the year unto the latter end, continueth upon some part or other of our Coasts, and therein such infinite sholes and multitudes of Fishes are offered to the Takers as may justly move admiration, not onely to strangers, but to those that daily be imployed among them.

The Summer-Fishing for Herring, beginneth about *Midsummer*, and lasteth some part of *August*.

The Winter-Fishing for Herring, lasteth from *September* to the middle of

No-

November, both which extend in place from *Boughones* in *Scotland*, to the *Thames* mouth.

The Fishing for *Cod* at *Alamby*, *Whirlington*, and *White Haven*, near the Coast of *Lancashire*, from *Easter* untill *Whitsontide*.

The Fishing for *Hake* at *Aberdenie*, *Abrotswhich*, and other places between *Wales* and *Ireland*, from *Whitsontide* to Saint *James-tide*.

The Fishing of *Cod* and *Ling*, about *Padstow*, within the Land, and of *Severn* from *Christmas* to *Mid-lent*.

The Fishing for *Cod* on the West-part of *Ireland* frequented by those of *Biscay*, *Galicia*, and *Portugal*, from the beginnig of *April* untill the end of *June*.

The Fishing for *Cod* and *Ling* on the North, and North-East of *Ireland*, from *Christmas* until *Michaelmas*.

The Fishing for *Pilchers* on the West coast of *England* from Saint *James-tide* until *Michaelmas*.

The Fishing for *Cod*, and *Ling* upon the North-East of *England*, from *Easter* untill *Midsummer*.

The

The Fishing of great *Staple-Ling*, and many other sorts of Fish lying about the Island of *Scotland*, and in the several parts of the *Brittish* Seas all the year long.

In *September*, not many years since, upon the Coast of *Devonshire*, near *Minigal*, Five Hundred Tun of Fish were taken in one day. And about the same time three thousand pounds worth of Fish in one day were taken at Saint *Ives* in *Cornwall* by small Boats, and other poor provisions.

Our five-men-Boats, and cobles adventuring in a calm to launch out amongst the *Holland* Busses, not far from *Robinhood's Bay* returned to *Whitbie* full fraught with Herrings, and reported that they saw some of those Busses take Ten, Twenty, Twenty four lasts, at a draught, of Herrings, and returned into their own Country with Forty, Fifty, and an Hundred Lasts of Herrings in one Buss.

Our Fleet of Colliers not many years since, returning from *Newcastle*, laden with Coals, about the *Well*, near *Flamborough-Head*, and *Scarborough*, met with

with such multitudes of *Cod*, *Ling* and *Herring*, that one amongst the rest, with certain ship-hooks, and other like instruments, drew up as much *Cod*, and *Ling* in a little space of time, as were sold well near for as much as her whole Lading of Cole. And many Hundred of ships might have been there laden in two dayes and two nights.

Out of which wonderfull affluence, and abundance of Fish swarming in our Seas, that we may the better perceive the infinite gain which Forreign Nations make, I will especially insist upon the Fishing of the *Hollanders* in our Coasts, and thereby shew how by this means principally they have increased.

1. *In Shipping.*

2. *In Mariners.*

3. *In Trade.*

4. *In Towns and Fortifications.*

5. *In*

5. *In Power extern or abroad.*

6. *In publick Revenue.*

7. *In private Wealth.*

8. *In all manner of Proviſions, and ſtore of things Neceſſarie.*

1.

Encreaſe of Shipping.

BEſides Seven Hundred Strand-Boats, Four Hundred Evars, and Four Hundred Sullits, Drivers and Tod-boats, wherewith the *Hollanders* Fiſh upon their own Coaſts, every one of thoſe imploying another Ship to fetch Salt, and carry their Fiſh into other Countries, being in all, Three Thouſand Sayle, maintaining and ſetting on work at leaſt Four Thouſand perſons, Fiſhers, Tradeſmen, Women and Children; They have One Hundred

dred Doyer Boats, of One Hundred and Fifty Tuns apiece, or there abouts; Seven Hundred Pinks, and Well-Boats from Sixty to One Hundred Tuns apiece, which altogether Fish upon the Coasts of *England* and *Scotland* for *Cod*, and *Ling* onely. And each of these employ another Vessel for providing of Salt, and transporting of their Fish, making in all One Thousand Six Hundred ships, which maintain and employ persons of all sorts, Four Thousand at least.

For the Herring-season, they have One Thousand Six Hundred Busses at the least, all of them Fishing onely upon our Coasts from *Boughonness* in *Scotland* to the mouth of *Thames*. And every one of these maketh work for three other ships that attend her; the one to bring in Salt from Forreign parts, another to carry the said Salt, and Cask to the Busses, and to bring back their Herrings, and the third, to Transport the said Fish into Forreign Countries. So that the Total Number of Ships and Busses plying the Herring-Fare, is, Six Thousand Four Hundred;

dred; whereby every Buſſe, one with another, imployeth Forty Men, Mariners and Fiſhers within her own Hold, and the reſt Ten Men a piece, which amounteth to One Hundred Twelve Thouſand Fiſhers and Mariners. All which maintain double, if not treble ſo many Tradeſmen, Women, and Children a land.

Moreover, they have Four Hundred other Veſſels at leaſt, that take Herring at *Yarmouth*, and there ſell them for ready money: ſo that the *Hollanders* (beſides Three Hundred ſhips before-mentioned fiſhing upon their own ſhores) have at leaſt Four Thouſand Eight Hundred ſhips only maintained by the Seas of *Great Brittain*, by which means principally *Holland* being not ſo big as one of our ſhires of *England*, containing not above Twenty Miles in length, and three in breadth, have encreaſed the number of their ſhipping, to at leaſt Ten Thouſand ſayle, being more then are in *England*, *France*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Italy*, *Denmark*, *Poland*, *Sweden*, and *Ruſſia*. And to this number they add every day, although their Country

it self affords them neither materials, or victual, nor merchandise to be accounted of towards their setting forth.

Besides these of *Holland*, *Lubeck* hath Seven Hundred great ships, *Hamborough* Six Hundred, *Embden* Fourteen Hundred, whereunto add the ships of *Bremer*, *Biscay*, *Portugal*, *Spain*, and *France*; which for the most part fish in our Seas, and it will appear that Ten Thousand sayle of Forreign Vessels and above, are employed and maintained by fishing upon our Coasts. So that in *Holland* there are built a thousand sayle at the least to supply ship-wracks, and augment their store, which as the Prince, and common Nursery, is the chiefest means onely to encrease their number.

2.

Encrease of Mariners.

THe number of ships fishing on our Coasts, as being aforesaid Eight Thousand Four Hundred. If we al-

low but twenty persons to every Ship one with another, the total of Mariners and Fishers, amounteth to One Hundred sixty eight Thousand, out of which Number they daily furnish their longer Voyages to all parts of the World; for by this means they are not onely enabled to brook the Seas, and to know the use of the Tackles and Compass, but are likewise instructed in the Principles of Navigation, and Pilotage; insomuch as from hence their greatest Navigators have had their Education and breeding.

3.

Encrease of Trade.

BY reason of those multitude of Ships and Marriners, they have extended their Trade to all parts of the World, exporting for the most part in all their Voiages our Herring, and other Fish for the maintenance of the same. In exchange whereof they return

turn the ſeveral commodities of other Countries.

From the Southern parts, as *France*, *Spain*, and *Portugal*, for our Herrings they return Oyles, Wines, Prunes, Honie, Wools, &c. with ſtore of Coin *in Specie*.

From the Straits, Velvets, Sattins, and all ſorts of Silks, Alums, Currans, Oyles, and all Grocerie-ware, with much monie.

From the Eaſt-Countries for our Herrings, and other *French* and *Italian* commodities before returned, they bring home Corn, Wax, Flax, Hemp, Pitch, Tar, Sope-Aſhes, Iron, Copper, Steel, Clap-board, Wainſcot, Timber, Deal-board, Dollers, and *Hungarie*-Gilders.

From *Germanie*, for Herrings, and other ſalt Fiſh, Iron, Steel, Glaſs, Mil-ſtones, Reniſh-wines, Button-plate for Armour, with other Munition; Silks, Velvets, Raſhes, Fuſtians, Baratees, and ſuch like *Frankford*-commodities, with ſtore of Rix-dollers.

From *Brabant* they return for the moſt part ready mony with ſome Ta-

peſtries, and Hull-ſhop. Yea, ſome of our Herring are carried as farr as *Braſeil*.

And that which is more ſtrange and greatly to our ſhame, they have four hundred Ships with Fiſh, which our men of *Yarmouth*, within ken almoſt at land do vent our Herrings amongſt us here in *England*, and make us pray for the Fiſh taken upon our own Coaſt ready mony, wherewith they ſtore their own Country.

4.

Encreaſe of Towns and Forts.

BY this their large extent of Trade, they are become as it were Citizens of the whole world, whereby they have ſo enlarged their Towns, that moſt of them within theſe four hundred years are full as great again as they were before; *Amſterdam*, *Leyden*, and *Middleburgh* having been lately twice enlarged and their ſtreets and buildings ſo fair, and orderly ſet forth, that

that for beauty and ſtrength, they may compare with any other in the world, upon which they beſtow infinite ſums of monies, all originally flowing from the bounty of the Sea, from whence, by their labour and induſtry, they derive the beginning of all that Wealth and Greatneſs, and particularly for the Havens of the aforeſaid Towns whereof ſome of them coſt forty, fifty, or an hundred thouſand pound. Their Fortifications alſo both for Number, and ſtrength, upon which they have beſtowed infinite ſumms of Money, may compare with any other whatſoever.

5.

Encreaſe of Power abroad.

SUch being then the Number of the Ships and Marriners, and ſo great their Trade, occaſioned principally by their Fiſhing; they have not onely Strengthened, and Fortified themſelves at home to repel all Foreign Invaſions, as lately in the War between

them and *Spain*; but have likewiſe ſtretched their power into the Eaſt and Weſt-Indies, in many places whereof, they are Lords of the Sea-Coaſts, and have likewiſe fortified upon the Main, where the Kings and People are at their devotion. And more then this, all Neighbour-Princes, in their differences, by reaſon of this their power at Sea, are glad to have them of their party. So that, next to the *Engliſh*, they are now become the moſt redoubted Nation at Sea of any other whatſoever.

6.

Encreaſe of Publick Revenue.

MOreover how mighty the publick Revenue, and Cuſtomes of that State are encreaſed by their Fiſhing, may appear in that above thirty years ſince, over and above the Cuſtomes of other Merchandize, Exciſes, ſtome

Licenſes, Waſtage, and Laſtage, there was paid to the State, for Cuſtome of Herring, and other ſalt-Fiſh, above three hundred thouſand pound in one year, beſides the tenth Fiſh, and Caſk paid for Waſtage, which cometh at the leaſt to as much more among the *Hollanders* onely, whereto the tenth of other Nations being added, it amounteth to a far greater ſum.

We are likewiſe to know, that great part of their Fiſh is ſold in other Countries for ready monies, for which they commonly export of the fineſt gold, and ſilver, and coming home recoin it of a baſer allay, under their own ſtamp, which is not a ſmall means to augment their publick Treaſure,

7.

Encreaſe of private Wealth.

AS touching their private Wealth, if we conſider the abundant ſtore of Herrings, and other Fiſh by them taken, and the uſual priſes that they are ſold for, as alſo the multitude of tradeſmen & Artizans, that by reaſon of this their fiſhing are daily ſet on work, we muſt needs conclude, that the gain thereof made by private men, muſt of neceſſity be exceeding great, as by obſerving the particulars following will plainly appear.

During the Wars between the King of *Spain*, and the *Hollanders* before the laſt Truce, *Dunkirk* by taking, ſpoiling, and burning the Buſſes of *Holland*, and ſetting great ranſom upon their Fiſher-men, enforced them to compound for great ſums, that they might Fiſh quietly for one year; whereupon the next year after the Fiſher-men agreed amongſt themſelves to pay a Doller upon every laſt of Herrings, towards the maintenance of certain Ships of War to waft and ſecure them in their Fiſhing

Fiſhing, by reaſon whereof there was a Record kept of the ſeveral laſts of Herrings taken that year, and it appeared thereby, that in one half year there were taken thirty thouſand laſts of Herrings which at twenty pound *per* laſt, amounteth to Three Millions ſix Hundred Thouſand, and at ſixteen, twenty, thirty pound the laſt, they are ordinarily ſold, then tranſported into other Countries, it cometh at leaſt to Five Millions, Whereunto if we add the Herrings taken by other Nations, together with the Cod, Ling, Hake, and the Fiſh taken by the *Hollanders*, and other our Neighbours upon the *Britiſh* Coaſts all the year long, the totall will evidently ariſe to be above Ten Millions.

The great Trade of Fiſhing imploying ſo many Men and Ships at Sea, muſt likewiſe neceſſarily maintain as great a Number of Tradeſ-men, and Artizends on Land, as Spinners, and Hemp-winders to Cables, Cordage, Yarn-twine for Nets and Lines, Weavers to make Saile Cloaths, Cecive Packers, Tollers, Dreſſers, and Cowchers

Cowchers to ſort and make the Herring lawful Merchandiſe. Tanners to Tan their Sails and Nets; Coopers to make Cask, Block, and Bowl-makers for Ships, Keel-men, and Labourers for carrying and removing their Fiſh, Sawyers for Planks, Carpenters, Shipwrights, Smiths, Carmen, Boat-men, Brewers, Bakers, and a number of others, whereof many are maimed perſons, and unfit to be otherwiſe imployed. Beſides the maintenance of all their ſeveral wives, and children, and families. And further every man and maid-ſervant, or Orphant, having any poor ſtock, may venture the ſame in their Fiſhing-Voiages, which affords them ordinarily great encreaſe, and is duly paid according to the Proportion of their Gain.

8. *Encreaſe*

8.

Encrease of Provisions.

AND to conclude, it is manifest that *Holland* only affording in it self some few Hops, Madders, Butter and Cheese aboundeth notwithstanding (by reason of this Art of Fishing) in plentiful manner with all kinde of Provisions as well for life, as in Corn, Beef, Muttons, Hides, and Cloaths; as for Luxury, in Wines, Silks and Spices; and for defence, as in Pitch, Tar, Cordage, Timber. All which they have not onely in competent proportion for their use, but are likewise able from their several Magazines to supply their Neighbour-Countries.

The premisses considered, it maketh much to the ignominy and shame of our *English* Nation, that God and Nature offering us so great a Treasure even at our own doors, we do notwithstanding neglect the benefit thereof, and, by paying Money to Strangers

gers for the Fiſh of our own Seas, impoveriſh our ſelves to make them Rich. Inſomuch that for want of induſtry and care in this particular, two hundred twenty five Fiſher-Towns are decayed and reduced to extream poverty; whereas on the contrary by diligent endevouring to make uſe of ſo great a bleſſing, we might in ſhort time repair theſe decayed Towns of the Kingdom, and add both honour, ſtrength, and riches to our King and Country, which how eaſily it may be done, will appear by ſome few obſervations following.

By erecting Two Hundred and fifty Buſſes of reaſonable ſtrength and bigneſs, there will be employment made for a Thouſand Ships, and for at leaſt Ten Thouſand Fiſher-men and Mariners at Sea, and conſequently for as many Tradeſmen and Labourers at Land.

The Herrings taken by the Buſſes will afford His Majeſty two hundred thouſand pound yearly cuſtom outward, and

and for commodities returned inward, thirty thouſand pound and above.

We have Timber ſufficient, and at reaſonable rates, growing in our own Kingdom for the building of Buſſes, every Shire affordeth hardy and able men fit for ſuch employment, who now live poorly and idle at home.

We have Victuals in great plenty ſold at eaſie rates without payment of Exciſes, or Impoſt.

Our ſhores and harbours are near the places where the Fiſh do haunt.

For drink, or nets, ſalting and packing our Fiſh; and for ſuccour in ſtreſs of weather, we may bring our Fiſh to Land, ſalt and pack it, and from ſome part of His Majeſties Dominions be at our Markets in *France*, *Spain*, or *Italy*, before the *Hollanders* can arrive in *Holland*.

We have means to tranſport our Fiſhing into ſome Northern Coun-

tries,

Countries, where the *Hollanders* ſeldome or never come. And though we had as many Buſſes as the *Hollanders*, yet is there vent for all, or more, for in the Eaſt and Northern Countries, and in many other places, Herrings are every days meat, Winter and Summer, as well to draw on drink, as to ſatisfie hunger, and in moſt places the greateſt part of the year they be ſcarce to be had; for preſently after *Michaelmas* the Sound and Rivers are frozen up, ſo as no Herrings can be tranſported into twenty ſeveral Kingdoms, and free States until *July*, which is for thirty weeks ſpace together; ſo that when Lent comes, there are few to be bought for money.

Laſtly, ſince by care and induſtry we gained from the *Flemmings*, doubtleſs ſo by the means we may as eaſily grow expert in the Art of Fiſhing, and in time make it a ſtaple-commodity of our own.

But this we ſhall the better and ſooner do, if we conſider and endeavour to reform certain wants and abuſes

ses which hitherto have hindred us from effecting that good and great work, whereof these that follow are none of the least.

1. General liberty of eating Flesh contrary to old custom, and the Statute-Laws provided for observing Fish-day, from whence our scarcity and dearth of Fish proceedeth; for where Flesh is ordinarily spent, Fish will not be bought, and want of sale decayeth all Trade, gain being the Nurse of Industry.

2. Want of order and discretion in our Fishing, every man being left to himself and permitted to Fish as best liketh him: whereas amongst the *Hollanders* two of the best experienced Fisher-men are appointed to guide the rest of the Fleet, all others being bound to follow them, and to cast their lines according to their direction.

3. The *Hollanders* and other Nations set forth with their Busses in *June*, to finde

finde the ſhole of Fiſh, and having found it, dwell amongſt it till *November*, whereas we ſtay till the Herring come home to our Rode-ſteads, and ſomtimes ſuffer them to paſs by ere we look out, our Herring-fiſhing conteining onely ſeven weeks at the moſt, and theirs twenty.

4. The *Hollanders* Buſſes are great and ſtrong, and able to brook foul weather, whereas our Cobles, Crayers, and Boats being ſmall, and thin ſided, are eaſily ſwallowed by a rough Sea, not daring to adventure far in fair weather, by reaſon of their weakneſſe for fear of Storms.

5. The *Hollanders* are induſtrious, and no ſooner are diſcharged of their lading, but preſently put forth for more, and ſeek for Markets abroad as well as at home; whereas our *Engliſh* after they have been once at Sea, do commonly never return again untill all the money taken for their Fiſh be ſpent, and they in debt ſeeking onely to ſerve the next Market.

6. The

6. The *Hollanders* have certain Merchants, who, during the Herring-season do onely come to the places where the Busses arrive, and joyning together in several companies, do presently agree for the lading of thirty or forty Busses at once, and so being discharged, they may speedily return to their former shipping; whereas our Fisher-men are uncertain of their Chap-men, and forced to spend much time in putting off their Fish by parcels.

These and other effects would carefully be taken into consideration, and certain orders made to make our Fishing prosperous, and successful, especially considering the fearful mischiefs, the neglects hereof hath brought to the King and Kingdom in general, and to many good Towns and Corporations in particular, as by Authority even of Parliament it self in the Statute of 33. *Hen.* the eight, is plainly testified, which I have summarily here set down, to avoid the prolixity of the original.

Becauſe the *Engliſh* Fiſher-men dwelling on the Sea-Coaſts did leave off their Trade of Fiſhing in our Seas, and went the half-Seas over, and thereupon they did buy Fiſh of *Pickards*, *Flemmings*, *Normans*, and *Zelanders*, by reaſon whereof many incommodities did grow to the Realm, *viz.* the decay of the wealth and proſperity as well of the Cinque-Ports, and Members of the ſame, as of other Coaſt-Towns by the Sea-ſide, which were builded, and inhabited by great multitudes of people, by reaſon of uſing and exerciſing, the craft and feat of Fiſhing. Secondly, the decay of a great number of Boats and Ships. And thirdly, the decay of many good Marriners, both able in body by their diligence, labour, and continual exerciſe of Fiſhing, and expert by reaſon thereof in the knowledge of the Sea-Coaſts, as well within this Realm as in other parts beyond the Seas. It was therefore enacted, that no manner of Perſons *Engliſh*, *Denizens*, or ſtrangers at that time, or any time after dwelling in *England*, ſhould buy any Fiſh of any ſtrangers in

the ſaid Ports of *Flanders*, *Zealand*, *Picardie*, *France*, or upon the Sea between ſhoare and ſhoare, *&c.*

This Act by many continuances was continued from Parliament to Parliament, until the firſt of Queen *Marie*, and from thence to the end of the next Parliament, and then expired.

For Concluſion, ſeeing, by that which hath formerly been declared, it evidently appeareth, that the Kings of *England*, by immemorable preſcription, continual uſage, and poſſeſſion, the acknowledgment of all our Neighbour-States, and the Municipal Laws of the Kingdom, have ever held the Sovereign Lordſhip of the Seas of *England*, and that unto his Majeſty, by reaſon of his Sovereignty, the ſupream command and Juriſdiction over the paſſage, and Fiſhing in the ſame rightfully apperteineth; conſidering alſo the natural Scite of thoſe our Seas that interpoſe themſelves between the great Northern Commerce of that of the whole world, and that of the Eaſt,

Weſt, and Southern Climates, and withal the infinite commodities that by Fiſhing in the ſame is daily made; It cannot be doubted, but his Majeſty, by means of his own excellent Wiſdom and Virtue, and by the Induſtry of his faithful Subjects and People, may eaſily, without injuſtice to any Prince or Perſon whatſoever, be made the greateſt Monarch for Command and Wealth, and his People the moſt opulent and Flouriſhing Nation of any other in the world. And this the rather, for that his Majeſty is now abſolute Commander of the *Britiſh* Iſle, and hath alſo enlarged his Dominions over a great part of the Weſtern *Indies*; by means of which extent of Empire, (croſſing in a manner the whole Ocean) the Trade and perſons of all Nations (removing from one part of the world to the other) muſt of neceſſity firſt, or laſt, come within compaſs of his power and juriſdiction.

And therefore the Sovereignty of our Seas, being the moſt precious Jewel of his Majeſtie's Crown; and (next under

under God) the principal means of our Wealth and Safety, all true *English* hearts and hands are bound by all possible means and diligence to preserve and maintain the same, even with the uttermost hazzard of their Lives, their Goods and Fortunes.

Thus you see what wonderous advantages may redound to the Felicity, and Glory of this Nation, if God give hearts and resolutions to vindicate those rights which are now most impiously and injuriously invaded.

There is also another Dominion of the Sea belonging to the King of Great *Brittain*, and that of a very large Extent upon the Shore of *America*, as on the *Virginian* Sea, and the *Islands* of the *Barbadoes* and Saint *Christophers* and many other places; but how farr our *English* Colonies Transported into *America*, have Possessed themselves of the Sea there, is not exactly as yet discovered.

A further Assertion that the Sea is under the Laws of Propriety, Declared in a full Convention betwixt Ferdinando *Emperour of* Germany, *and the Republick of* Venice *in the* Year, 1563.

AT this Convention the Complaints on both sides were opened; And it being required in the Name of his Emperial Majesty, that it may be Lawful for his Subjects and others, to Traffick freely in the Adriatick Sea; It was answered by the Advocate of the Common-Wealth of *Venice*, that Navigation indeed ought to be free, yet those things at which his Imperial Majesty found himself agrieved were no ways repugnant to this Freedom, for as much as in Countries which are most free; Those who have the Dominion thereof receive Custome, and do give Bounds, and prescribe Order, by which way all Merchandize shall pass, and therefore none

More fair Navigation is to be free.

none ſhould finde themſelves agrieved if the *Venetians* for their own Reſpects, did uſe to do ſo in the Adriatick Seas which is under their Dominion, there being nothing more known then that the Common-Wealth of *Venice* were Lords of the Adriatick Sea, and do exerciſe that Dominion which from time out of minde it had always done, as well in receiving of Cuſtomes, as in aſſigning of places for the Exaction of it; And that according to former Capitulations, the Subjects of the *Venetians* were to have no leſs liberty in the Lands of the *Auſtrians*, then the *Auſtrian* Subjects in the Sea of *Venice*; And if his Imperial Majeſty within his own State upon the Land, will not permit that the Subjects of the Common-Wealth of *Venice* ſhall go which way they liſt, but doth conſtrain them to go by ſuch places onely where cuſtoms is to be paid, he cannot with Juſtice demand that his Subjects may paſſe by or through the Sea of the Republick which way they pleaſe, but muſt content himſelf that they paſſe that way onely, which ſhall beſt ſtand with the

Advantage of thoſe who have the Dominion over it; And if his Majeſty cauſe Cuſtome to be paid upon his Land, why may not the *Venetians* likewiſe do it upon their Sea? He demanded of them if by the Capitulation they would have it that the Emperour ſhould be reſtrained or hindred from the taking of Cuſtome? And if not, why would they have the *Venetians* tyed thereunto by a Capitulation, which ſpeaks of both Potentates equally with the ſame words; He proceeded in a Confirmation of the Truth that the Republick had the Dominion of the Sea; and although the propoſition was true, that the Sea is common and free, yet it is no otherwiſe to be underſtood there in the ſame ſence when uſually we ſay, that the high-way are common & free; by which is meant, that they cannot be Uſurped by any private Perſon for his ſole proper ſervice, but remain to the uſe of every one; Not therefore, that they are ſo free, as that they ſhould not be under the Protection and Government of ſome Prince, and that every one might do therein Licenciouſly what-

The Sea in His Majeſties Dominions no more common nor free, then is the High-way by Land.

whatsoever pleaseth Him, either by Right, or by Wrong, for as much as such Licenciousness, or Anarchy both of God, & Nature, as well by Sea, as by Land; That the true liberty of the Sea excludes it not from the protection and superiority of such as maintain it in Liberty, nor from the Subjection to the Laws of such as have Command over it, but rather necessarily it includes it; That the Sea no less then the Land is Subject to be divided amongst men, & appropriated to Cities and Potentates which long since was ordained by God from the beginning of man kind, as a thing most Natural; And this was well understood by *Aristotle*, when he said, that unto Maritime Cities the Sea is the Territory, because from thence they take their Sustenance, and Defence; A thing which cannot possibly be, unless that part of it be appropriated in the like manner as the Land is, which is divided betwixt Cities and Governments not by equal parts, nor according to their Greatness, but as they have been, or are able to Rule, Govern, or Defend them. *Bern*, he said, was not

The Dominion of the Seas appropriated to such and such places ever since the begining of Mankind.

not the greatest City of *Switzerland*, and yet it hath as large a Territory, as all the rest of the twelve Cantons together; The City of *Norimburg* is very great, and yet the Dominions and Territories of it do hardly exceed the wals. The City of *Venice* it self for many years was known to be without any possession at all upon the firm Land. Upon the Sea likewise, certain other Cities of great Force and Valour have possessed a large quantity of it, and other Cities of less force have contented themselves with the next waters; Neither are there wanting Examples of such who notwithstanding they do border upon the Sea, yet having fertile Lands adjacent to them, have satisfied themselves with their Land Possessions without ever attempting to gain any Sea Dominion. Others there are, who being awed by their more mighty Neighbours, have been constrained to forbear any such Attempt, for which two causes, a City notwithstanding it be Maritime, and bordereth upon the Sea, may happen to remain without any possession of the Sea.

He

He added, that God did institute Principalities for the maintenance of Justice, to the benefit of Mankind, which was necessary to be executed, as well by Sea as by Land; And St. *Paul* said, that for this cause there were due unto Princes, Customes and Contributions, that it should be a great Absurdity to praise the well Governing, Regulating, and Defence of the Land, and to condemn that of the Sea; And that if the Sea in some parts thereof, for the ampleness and extream distance of it from the Land is not possibly to be Governed, and Protected, it doth proceed from a Disability, and Defect in Mankind, as in the same consideration there are Desarts or Wildernesses so great upon the Lands, as it is altogether imposible to protect them, witness the many sandy parts of *Africa*, and the Immense Vastities of the World but lately discovered; And as it is a gift of God that a Land by the Laws, and publisht Power be Ruled, Protected, and Governed, so the same happeneth to the Sea; He said, that those were deceived by a gross

The Propriety of the Seas, according to the Laws of God.

groſs Equivocation, who affirmed that the Land by reaſon of its Stability and Firmneſs may be governed, but not the Sea, for being an unconſtant Element, it paſſeth, and hath a motion proper to it as well as the Aire; And if by the Sea, and the Aire, all and every part of thoſe fluent Elements be intended, it is a moſt certain thing that they cannot be governed, becauſe whilſt a man ſecureth himſelf with any one part of them, the other fliteth out of his power; And this alſo hapeneth unto Rivers, which cannot be reſtrained in their fluent motions; But when mention is made to rule over a Sea or River, it is not underſtood of the Element but of the Scite where they are placed; The water of the Adriatick Sea doth continually run out of it, neither can it at all be kept in, and yet it is the ſame Sea, as well as the Thames, the *Rhine* or the *Po* are the ſame Rivers now, as they were one Thouſand years agoe, and this is that which is Subject to the Protection of Princes. He askt the *Germans*, if their pretence were that the Sea ſhould be left without Protection,

The Sea not to be without Protection.

Protection, so that any one might do therein whatsoever he listed, by Robing, Spoiling and making it Unnavigable; This he said, would be so absurd in reason, that he durst answer for them that they had no such pretence; he therefore concluded, that therefore his Majesty of *Germany* by a necessary Consequence must acknowledge, that it ought to be kept Governed, and Protected by those unto whom it did appertain by Divine Disposition, which if it were so, as indeed it is, he desired to understand if in their Judgment it seemed to them a Just thing, that such should do it with the expence of their own Pains, and Treasure, or rather that should contribute towards it who equally did enjoy the Benefit; And as to this, he said, he durst answer for them, the Doctrine of Saint *Paul* being clear in this particular, that all such who are under Government and Protection, are thereby bound to pay Customes and Contribution; Much he said, might be alleaged in matter of Law to confirm this Truth; And thereupon he concluded, that if the

The Sea to be protected by those to whom it doth appertain by Divine Disposition.

Common-

Common-Wealth of *Venice* were that Prince to whom it did appertain to Govern and Protect the Adriatick Sea, it of neceſſity muſt follow, that whoſoever Traffick, and Saileth on their Sea ought to be ſubject to their Laws, in the ſame manner as ſuch are who travail through a Country upon Land.

From hence he did proceed to ſhow that this Dominion over the Sea from time out of minde did belong to the Common-Wealth of *Venice*; And to prove this, he cauſed to be read out of an Abſtract which he had taken the opinion of Thirty Famous Lawyers who from the Year One Thouſand Three Hundred until the preſent time, did ſpeak of the Dominion which the Common-Wealth of *Venice* had over the Sea, as of a thing moſt known, and of which even in their Times, the mind of man knew not the Contrary, ſome of them affirming that the Common-Wealth of *Venice* had no leſſe Dominion over the Sea, then over the City of *Venice*; Others maintaining that the Adriatick Sea is the Territory and the Demeans of the ſaid City; And to render

render this more evident, they do make mention of the lawful Power which the *Venetians* have to establish Laws over Navigation, and to impose Customes upon such as traffique on those Seas; And he added, that he never read any Lawyer which held forth to the contrary; moreover he told the Advocate of the Emperour, that if he would not believe those Authors who testified that the Sea belonged to the *Venetians*, whereof they had possession from time out of minde, before the age wherein those Authors lived, yet he could not deny to receive them for the Testimonies of such things, which they saw, and knew in their times, and to hold them as witnesses far above all Exception, being all of them Famous men, though dead so many years agoe, and whose Impartial Pens could no ways be interested in the present Differences. And because more then two hundred and fifty years were passed from the time that the Authors whom he alleaged as Witnesses hereof, did Write to the time of those whose Names he last of all did mention in

The Power of the Soveraign of the Seas, to impose Customes in his own Jurisdiction.

that

that behalf; he urged that by their Atteſtation it was ſufficiently proved, that for a long time more then ſo many years the Common-Wealth hath commanded the Sea, and therefore he could not deny the aſſured and certain poſſeſſion of it to the preſent.

Then Addreſſing himſelf to the Judges, he deſired them to conſider, that notwithſtanding ſome of the above mentioned Authors do ſpeak in general words, and name at large the Sea of the *Venetians*, neither taking care to declare the Quality or the Quantity thereof, yet others more expreſly do give it the Title of the Adriatick Sea, which evidently doth demonſtrate not onely the Scite, but alſo the Quantity of the Sea poſſeſſed, and hereupon he explained himſelf, that thoſe who ſpeak more preciſely ought to cleer the paſſages of thoſe who write more generally, according to the common Precept which is, that with cleer places the more obſcure are to be illuſtrated; He mentioned alſo the divers manner of ſpeaking of the ſame Lawyers, ſome deriving the Dominion of the Republick

lick over the Seas from Custome, some from Prescriptions, others from an induced Subjection, and others from a Privilege, which did arise all from this Reason; Because, as they were most assuredly informed of the Possession and Jurisdiction of the said Sea, which they both heard and saw to belong to the Common-Wealth time out of mind; So they Writing on the same Subject not at the Instance or the Command of any One, but of their own proper Motions, and by way of Institution only, every one of them judged it most convenient to expresse the Title of that Jurisdiction, some with one Term, and some with another, without coming to use the sole, true proper Term, as they would have done if they had been put to write for the Interest of any one, in which Cases the Lawyers are alwayes conformable, receiving from the Person interested the like Instructions.

After the Declination of the *Constantinopolitan* Empire, the *Adriatick* Sea was found to be for many years abandoned in such manner, as it remained

unregard, and without the Protection and Government of any Prince, and under the Jurisdiction of none, untill it came into the Power of the *Venetians*, who to receive their lively-hood thereby, were constrained to maintain it in freedom, and thereupon taking it into their protection, they obtained the Government, and the Dominion over it:

How the Sea comes into the Dominion of Princes

In like manner, as by the Law of Nature, and of Nations, the Land, the Sea, and other things which are not under the Dominion of any other, come Justly into the hands of those who first do get the possession of them; by which Reason, the first Empires were founded, as well upon the Sea, as on the Land, and daily there are new ones in the same manner formed, when any of them, either through Age, or Vice becoming weak wanteth Force, and sinketh of it self, The which Custody and Government of the Sea acquired the Common-Wealth of *Venice*, hath daily advanced by the keeping of Powerful Fleets, with the expence of much Treasure, and the effusion of as much Blood, both of their Citizens,

tizens, and Subjects, continuing without Interruption in the ſight of all the World their Dominion and Cuſtody of the ſaid Sea, and overcoming and removing all Impediments, as either by Pirates, or by Potentates, have at divers times been raiſed againſt them. After the teſtimony of the Lawyers, he added, that of the Hiſtorians, who do relate, that the Common-Wealth of *Venice* for more then three hundred years paſt, did receive Cuſtom of ſuch as ſail'd that Sea, and kept arm'd Veſſels in a readineſs to compell all ſuch ſhips ſo ſayling to go to *Venice*, teſtifying moreover, that even unto their preſent time the ſame cuſtom was obſerved: But he dwelled not much upon their Atteſtations, ſaying, that although they were good Teſtimonies of preceding Occurrences; yet when we undertake to prove either the intereſts of Princes, or of private Perſons, he ought to help himſelf by Authentick Writings, and to uſe the Hiſtorians with great Diſcretion, ſome of them being moved by Love, others with Hatred, and others with hopes of Prefer-

ment, which conſtrains them oftentimes to uſe Flatteries, or Hyperboles, upon which cannot be laid any ſure Foundation: He therefore did produce an Act of the General Council held at *Lions* in the year, one thouſand two hundred ſeventy four, where the *Abbot* of *Nerveſa* being delegated by the Pope did Sentence, that the *Venetians* ſhould not be moleſted in the Defence, and Protection of the *Adriatick* Sea, againſt the *Saracens* and Pirats, neither ſhould they be Diſturbed by any from exacting their Rights and Cuſtoms, which they had of Victuals, Merchandize, or any other portable Commodities. He added alſo that there remain the Regiſters of Licenſes granted to paſs their ſaid Sea, with armed Veſſels, or Ships of War, and to the Perſons and Goods belonging to their uſe, at the requeſt of divers Princes who had their Poſſeſſions on the ſhore of the *Adriatick* Sea: But for the greater confirmation of all that had been ſaid, he remembred the yearly Ceremony uſed at *Venice*, where the Duke in the preſence of the Ambaſſadours of other Princes, and more

particularly

particularly of the Emperours of *Germany* doth constantly use to Espouse the Sea by casting a Ring of Gold into it with these words, *Desponsamus te Mare in signum veri & perpetui Dominii*: We do Marry thee O Sea, in sign of our true and perpetual Dominion over it; Which Ceremony, as many Writers do affirm, had its beginning when Pope *Alexander* the third was in *Venice*, notwithstand they do add withall, that it was Instituted in sign of the Dominion which the Republick had formerly gotten by the Right of War.

At the Conclusion he produced the Letters of many Princes and Potentates who joyntly acknowledged the Truth of what he spoke, two of them were from the Emperour *Frederick* to *Giovanni Mocerniga* Duke of *Venice*, where having acquainted him of a certain quantity of Corn, that was to pass through the *Adriatick* Sea, he desireth that he may be permitted to have a free passage, which will be to him a great pleasure, and he shall acknowledge it with many thanks. Another Letter was from *Beatrice* Queen of *Hungary* to

the Duke above mentioned, where having informed him that she had divers things to pass through the *Adriatick* Sea, which could not be without his permission she desired that for Courtesies and Friendships-sake it might be granted her, which she should take for a great Favour, and correspond with him on the like occasion. Another Letter was from *Matthias* King of *Hungary* to the Duke of *Venice*, where relating how the Common-Wealth of *Venice* was accustomed every year to give License for the Transportation of a certain quantity of Corn, he prayed that the same Grace might be shewed unto him, and that he would acknowledge it for a Favour, and correspond accordingly.

Thus as in a Glass, you may see the Dominion of His Majesty in His *British* Seas clearly represented, asserted, and fully proved by that propriety of Title and Soverainty of Power which the Duke of *Venice* exerciseth on the *Adriatick* Sea, which by the manner of prescription, the consent of Histories, and even by the confession of their Adversaries

versaries themselves is almost the same with His Majesties of *Great Brittain*; But His Majesty hath one Title more above all theirs, which is, the Title of Successive Inheritance, confirmed as well by the Law of Nature, as of Nations, and is so much the more considerable, in regard of the infinite Advantages of the profits of it, as the *Brittish* Ocean in its Latitude and Circumference exceedeth the small Boundaries of the Gulph of *Venice*.

But in this great Disputation (where were present the most Remarkable Wits of *Italy* and *Germany*, and where the Imperialists themselves and amongst them, one of the most Eminent, *Stephen*, Baron of *Gourz* Attested openly, that the Common-Wealth of *Venice* was Patron of the *Adriatick* Sea, and might impose what Customs they thought fitting, and that all other the Commissaries thought so in their Consciences:) There is enough, as may be thought in Reason to convince all Opponents, that may pretend to differ in Judgement from us; Yet so it is, that the Indulgence of the Kings of *England*

Vide *the* Venetians *Title unto the sole Dominion of the* Adriatick *Sea.*

to their Neighbouring Nations, especially to the *Hollanders*, by giving them too much liberty hath incouraged them to assume a Liberty to themselves, and what at the first was but a License, they improve into a Custom, and make that Custom their Authority; Insomuch, that some of the most busiest of them have openly declared against the Kings Propriety on the *Brittish* Seas: Amongt these is one *Hugo Grotius*, a Gentleman of great Ingenuity, but in this particular so inclined to obey the Importunities, and serve the Interests of his Country-men, that he disobliged himself of the Truth, and moreover (to speak the truth) of his Conscience it self, for if you look into his *Silvæ*, upon the first Inauguration of King *Iames* of ever Blessed Memory, he is pleased to express himself in these words, *Tria Sceptra profundi in magnum Cojere Ducem*, which is, that the Rights of the *English*, *Scottish*, and *Irish* Seas are united under one Scepter, neither is he satisfied with this bare profession, but he goes on, *Sume animos a Rege tuo, Quis det Iura Mari*, which is in *English*, Take cou-

Hugo Grotius, Sylv. lib. 2.

rage

rage from the King, who giveth Law unto the Seas: In the same Book, in the contemplation of so great a Power, he concludeth, *Finis hic est, qui sine caret, &c*; that is, This is an end beyond an end, a bound that knoweth no bound, a bound, which even the winds and the waves must submit unto.

But with what ingratitude have the *Dutch* Answered the many Royal Favours, which the Kings of *England* have almost perpetually conferred on them: If there be no Monster greater then Ingratitude, what Monsters are these Men, who of late are so far from acknowledging their thankfulness, that like Vipers, they would feed upon, and consume those Bowells which did afford them Life and Spirit? We may observe, that in their Lowest Condition, which is most Suitable to the Name of their Abode, called the *Low Countries*, they Petitioned to the Majesty of the Queen of *England*, whose Royal Heart and Hand being alwayes open to those that were Distressed, especially those that were her Neighbours, upon the account

Vide the *Observations concerning the Affairs of* Holland.

account of Religion, ſhe ſent them Threeſcore Thouſand Pound, upon the account of Sir *Thomas Greſham* in the year, One Thouſand Five Hundred Seventy and Two; and preſently afterwards, there followed Colonel *Morgan*, Colonel *Gilbert*, Colonel *Cheſter* to Aſſiſt them in their Wars, who were the Commanders of ſo many Regiments of Men; And after them the War increaſing, there were ſent over Colonel *North*, Colonel *Cotton*, Colonel *Candiſh*, and Colonel *Norris*, and ſome other perſons of an Eminent Name, who for the Honour of the *Engliſh* Nation made there Excellent Demonſtrations of their Valour, and Redeemed the *Dutch* from the Power of thoſe who otherwiſe would have brought them to a betrer underſtanding of their Duties: Great ſupplyes of monies were ſent over to maintain ſo great a charge: At the laſt, the Prince of *Orange* being ſlain preſently after the Death of the Duke *Alanſon* (Brother to *Henry* the third of *France*,) who (if the ſucceſſe had Anſwered the Expectation) was wiſely enough made Duke of *Brabant*;

the

the Queen of *England* sent over unto them *Robert* Duke of *Leicester* with great provision both of Men and Money, accompanied with diverse of the Nobility and Gentlemen of good account; And although the said Earle, not long afterwards, returned into *England* and the affairs of the *Hollanders* were doubtful untill the fatal Battel at *Nieuport*, yet Queen *Elizabeth* of ever Blessed Memory, out of her unspeakable goodness to the distressed, and to those that suffered for Religion, did as long as she lived constantly Assist the *Hollanders* both with Men and Monies; she gave them Hope in Despair, she gave them strength being weak, and and with the Charity of her Princely Hand did support them being fallen; And although the *Hollanders* do ungratefully alledge, that it was a Benefit great enough for the *English* to Assist them *in reason of State*, because by so doing they kept out a War from their own Country. It is most certain, that at that time the *English* had need to fear no Warr at all, but onely for their Cause, and for taking their parts; for it

it was for their Cauſe that the *Engliſh* in the year, One Thouſand Five Hundred, and ſeventy one, had ſeized upon the ſum of Six Hundred Thouſand Ducats, on the Weſt Coaſt of *England*, being the money deſigned from *Spain* to the Duke of *Alva* for the Advancement of the *Spaniſh* Intereſts in the *Neatherlands*: And although the *Hollanders* do further alledge in their own Excuſe, that they were ſo grateful, as that they offered unto the Queen of *England* the Soveraignty of the *Neatherlands*, which ſhe would not accept, and therefore it was not their fault that ſhe obtained it not; It is in reaſon truly anſwered, That the Queen of *England*, well knowing that ſhe was in danger to draw a perpetual Warr upon her Self, and her Succeſſours, by the accepting of ſuch a Gift to which ſhe had no Right, did wiſely refuſe their Liberality; And yet for all that, ſhe continued ſtill to aid them without that chargeable obligation. The *Hollanders* do further alledge, that the Queen of *England* had the Cautionary Town of *Brill*, *Fluſhing*, and the other places delivered into

The Hollanders Objections Anſwered.

into her Hands: It is true she had so, and thereby enjoyed only the Benefit of being at more Expence, both of Men and Money; and let the Reader take notice, that most certain it is, that the *Hollander* had no sooner made a Truce with the King of *Spain*, and the Arch-Duke *Albertus*, but he began presently to set the *English* at nought, and to take the Bridle out of their Hands; whereupon immediately insued their Forbiding of the bringing of *English* cloaths died, and dressed into *Holland*, and the adjoyning Provinces without ever making the King of *England* or his Ambassadour Leiger at the *Hague* Privy thereunto.

The Impudent Affront of the Hollanders to the late Kings of England.

And to make amends for this their Saucy and Insolent Affront, in a more High and Peremptory way they demeaned themselves to King *Iames* himself; for whereas the Duke of *Lennox*, as Admiral of *Scotland*, had by order from the Majesty of King *Iames* in the year, One Thousand Six Hundred and Sixteen, sent one Master *Brown* to demand of the *Hollanders* then fishing upon the Coasts of *Scotland* a certain antient

tient Duty called, Size Herring, they began to conteſt with him about it, and after a long Diſputation they payed it, as in former times it had been accuſtomed, but not without ſome affronting terms; that it was the laſt time it ſhould be payed.

And it is moſt obſervable, that the ſame Gentleman coming the year following with the ſame Authority and Commandment with one only Ship of His Majeſties to demand the Duty aforeſaid; And with Order, if he were denyed, to take witneſs of the refuſal in writing, and ſo peaceably depart: He came aboard one of their Ships, and no ſooner demanded the aforeſaid Duty, but by the Maſter of the Ship, he was denyed it, who as plainly, as peremptorily told him, That he was commanded by the States of *Holland* not to pay it unto the King of *England* any more; of which he took witneſs according to his Order from His Majeſty. This taking of witneſs did ſo ſtartle the *Dutch*, that before Maſter *Brown* had got off to his own Ship, the Maſter of another Ship of *Holland* came preſently

sently aboard that Ship in which he was, who demanding of Master *Brown*, his Name, he replyed that his Name was *Brown*; Why then, quoth he, if you be the Man, I have Order to Arrest you, and to carry you into *Holland*; whereof Master *Brown* gave notice to the Master of the Kings Ship, requiring him to advertise His Majesty of this Insolency; and Master *Brown* was in this manner Arrested, and carried away Ptisoner into *Holland*, where for a while he was detained. I do read, that much about the same time one Master *Archibald Ranthin* a *Scotch* Gentleman, and residing at *Stockholme* in *Sweden*, where he sollicited for the payment of some sums of monies due to the *English* Merchants, there was at the same time in the same City one *Vandyke*, who lying there as an Agent for the States of *Holland*, said unto some Principal Persons of the *Swedes*, that they need not be so hasty in paying any Monies to the Subjects of the King of *England*, or to give them any high respect, because the said Kings promises were not to be believed, nor his threatnings

Vide *Observations concerning the Affairs of* Holland.

nings to be feared; for which Vile and Insolent Speeches being afterwards challenged by Master *Archibald Ranthin*, he had no better Excuse, then to say, he was drunk when he did speak those words (for deny them he could not;) and by this means his Excuse of playing the Beast, did excuse him for playing the Man.

Now from these Insolent Affronts by words, let us proceed, and come to what they have done by deeds, where in the first place, we may observe their rude demeanour to our *English* Nation in the Northern Seas on the Coasts of *Greenland*, and those parts, about the Fishing for *Whales*, and the Commodity of *Train Oyle*, where violently they have offered unpardonable abuses by giving of blows, and chasing the *English-men* away, and by procuring much loss and prejudice unto them; their Pride of Heart was so high, that it would not give their Reason leave to apprehend that Fishing at Sea is free for every Man where it is not upon the Coast of any Country, unto which the Dominion of the Sea belongeth by ancient Prerogative.

And

And yet all this is but inconsiderable in regard of their usage of our Nation in the *East-Indies*, where in open Hostility they have as fiercely set upon them, as if they had been most mortal Enemies, having in several Encounters slain many of our Men, and sunk sundry of our Ships; And when they had taken our Men Prisoners, they would use them in the sight of the *Indians*, in such a Contemptible and Disdainfull manner, as if at their own Home, and in the Country of the Butter-Boxes; the *English* in respect of them were but a sordid and a slavish Nation, and the *Hollanders* were either their Superiours, and might use them at their own pleasure, or the *English* were so spiritless, or so unpowerfull, that they durst not be revenged, but quietly must put up all the Affronts and Injuries which they received at their Hands.

And as for the Commodious Trade which the *English* have had in *Muscovy* for above these fourscore years, and some other Countries that lye upon the East and North, which the *Hollanders*

Their ſpoyling of our Trade in Muſcovy, and other Countries of the Eaſt.

have now gotten quite out of their Hands, to the great Grief and Prejudice of many Merchants in this City: What ſhall we ſay, ſeeing not long ſince they have been acting the ſame again with our *Engliſh* Merchants in *Turkey*: And it is a practiſe ſo uſual with them to ſpoyle the Trade of other Nations, that when they cannot find any Occaſion to do it, they will ſhow a Nature ſo wretchedly Barbarous, that they will not ſtick to ſpoyle one another; ſo great is their Covetous and moſt Inſatiable deſire of Gain: And yet all this proceedeth out of an ignoble and a ſordid ſpirit, for let them arrive to what Wealth they will, they can never be the Maſters of a Noble, and a Generous Diſpoſition.

Had it not been for their Neighbouring Nation of the *Engliſh*, they had never arrived to the liberty of a Free State, yet ſo ungratefull have they been, that they have endeavoured to forget all the Obligations of Humanity, and have digged into the very Bowels of thoſe who did preſerve them. Many Examples of this may be inſtanced;

inſtanced; I ſhall look a little back again on the cruelty of their proceedings in the Eaſt *Indies*, before their ſtudied malice at *Amboyna*, and afterwards of their horrid Maſſacre at *Amboyna* it ſelf. As their Avarice was unſatisfied, ſo their quarrels with the *Engliſh* were many; Covetouſneſs and Ambition not long enduring a Co-partner.

Queen *Elizabeth* being tranſlated into a better World, and the *Hollanders* (to be the more ready to ſet the *Engliſh* at nought,) having by the Aſſiſtance of Sir *Ralph Winwood* got the Cautionary Towns into their own Poſſeſſion, they preſently began to appear in their true Colours, by adding Cruelty to Hypocriſie, and Avarice to Inſolence; The *Engliſh* that were Traſficking in the Eaſt *Indies* being ſenſible thereof, and finding no redreſs, preferred their Juſt Complaints to the Majeſty of King *James*, on which enſued the firſt Treaty in the year, One thouſand ſix hundred and thirteen, in the City of *London*, and after that, another Treaty in the year, One thouſand ſix hundred and fifteen, at the *Hague* in *Holland*,

which taking up much time to little effect; there was a third Treaty which was held in *London* in the year, One thouſand ſix hundred and nineteen, touching the Differences between the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* in the Eaſt *Indies*, in which a full and ſolemn Compoſition was made, and a fair Order ſet as to the Management of the Affairs for the Time to come; but ſoreſtleſs were the Spirits of the *Hollanders* to make themſelves the entire Maſters of the profits of the *Indies*, that having driven from thence the *Spaniards* and *Portugals*, they at the laſt determined with themſelves by ſubtility as well as ſtrength, to force from thence the *Engliſh* alſo; In purſuance whereof, ſome four years before the moſt Barbarous Proceedings at *Amboyna*, they endeavoured to diſpoſſeſs the *Engliſh* of the Iſlands of *Banda*, *Polleroone*, and ſome others, famous for the Rich Spices of Nutmeggs, Cloves and Mace; and underſtanding by one of their Spies, that Captain *Courtupe* was gone from his Houſe and Factory in *Polleroon* to one of the adjacent Clove-Iſlands, called *Lantore*,

they

they did shoot him as he was in his Boat upon his Return, and being demanded the cause of so unexpected a Murther, they sent word to the *English* that they should take no more care for him, for he was dead, and he should be buried; Although this was a great discouragement to the *English* that were there in their Occupation of Merchandize, yet some were afterwards so venturous, as to endeavour a settlement at *Lantore*, amongst whom was Master *Woofe* a Factor there, and the Authour from whom we have received this Discourse, and one who being taken not long afterwards by the *Dutch*, indured almost as much misery, as a Created Nature can be capable of, which the ensuing Narration will make manifest: He writeth of the *Dutch*, *That as often as he thinketh of their unparralleld and barbarous Cruelty, he cannot but admire, and praise that Great God who so much strengthened and inabled him to undergoe those heavy Tortures and Pressures which were loaden on him by those bloody Patrons of Cruelty.* The *Dutch* had no sooner notice that the *English* had

Vide, *Master* Woofes *Discourse on the Tyranny of the* Dutch *upon the* English. pa. 10.

raiſed a Factory in the Iſland of *Lantore*, but ſayling from *Iaccatra*, now by them called *Batavia*, they importuned the Natives to ſurrender the Iſland into their Hands and Cuſtody; Sometimes they thought to have prevailed upon them with perſwaſions, and fair words ſayling, they would make uſe of foul, and threaten them with Sword and Fire; And although they were not ignorant that a Treaty had been held in *London*, and a full Compoſition for the ending of all Controverſies, yet they informed the Natives, that although they had given the Iſland to the King of *England*, they need not to fear to diſclaim what they had done by making them to become Maſters of it, for they ſaid they could, nay, and they would interpoſe between all Dangers and them, and aſſured them that they had Strength enough to defend them againſt all the Nations in the World; They only deſired of them a Seizin of ſecurity to enjoy the profit of their Fruits on thoſe Terms which the *Engliſh* had conditioned with them. The Natives of the Iſland being hereat in a great

Ibid pa. 12, and 13.

great perplexity, and doubting amongst themselves what might be the event, if they refused a proffer, which carried an Obligation of so much safety with it, did Address themselves unto the *English*, and desired of them to be informed, how they might secure themselves from that deceitfull and cruell Generation of men, whose perswasions were as plausible, as their threatnings terrible; And understanding by the *English*, that they expected a considerable Recruit both of Men and Ships to come suddainly unto them, they were resolved to be Couragious, and not to yield to their treacherous perswasions: In this apprehension, the *Dutch* not long afterwards desired of them after some flattering Asseverations to give them, *A Seizin of Security*; At which the Natives pretending Ignorance, told them, that they knew not the signification of the Word, and seemed to be extraordinarily curious to understand the Interpretation of it; At which the *Dutch* with as much Mirth as Confidence, having whispered amongst themselves, did after some deliberation

tion tell them; That they must bring a great Brass Bason filled with Earth, and plant in the middle of it the Branch of a Nutmeg-Tree laden with Fruit, and cause it to be presented to them by the Chiefest Men of their Islands; And this they told them was the Sence and Interpretation of the word.

The Natives having received this Answer, did suddainly acquaint the *English* with it, to whom they were more inclined then to the *Dutch*, as all the rest of those Nations are; and having advised with one another, they told the *Dutch* in plain terms, that their Demands were Impossibilities, for should they recede from what already they had done, both God and Man might justly brand them with Infidelity, for to their apprehensions, they seemed to un-interest the *English* of what was their proper Title, which by no means they could be induced to consent unto; At which the *Hollanders* being much incensed, told them, that since no perswasions would allure them to a knowledge of their own Happi-

ness,

ness, they must expect to find the reward of their obstinacy, for rather then be frustrated of their Intentions, they were resolved to make a Bonefire of the Island, they did advise them, not to trust to the *English* strength which could stand in no Competition with theirs, for they owned them but as a Handfull in comparison with themselves.

This Dispute being frustrated, and the *Dutch* finding the Natives of the Island to be intractable to their Demands, they prepared a great Vessel which they had with Battery Guns, with a resolution forthwith to Assault the Town; This great Ship was called the *Float*, and besides her, they had in a readiness other less Ships that lay against that part of the Town, where the *English* Factory was; Having for two dayes planted their Batteries, and played against the Town, but more especially against that place where by the Flaggs and Pendants of the Red Cross, they found the *English* Factory to be, and finding the Event not to answer the expectation, on the first of *March*,

(five

(five dayes after their first Assault) they found the means to Land their Men, and Enter the Town; they had placed in their Front a considerable number of the Nation of *Japan* being all armed with Guns like unto Cullivers with barrels of Brass, who making way for the *Hollanders*, did such Execution, that the Out-cry in the Streets was terrible, Men, Women, and Children being cut in pieces, and the Town a Shamble of dead persons. The *English* being but few in number were taken Prisoners, and saluted with the Titles of base Rogues and Villains, they were bound unto posts by Hands and Neck, they were bruised, beaten and buffeted, they were afterwards ty'd back to back, and so the stronger was inforced to carry the weaker to one of the *Dutch* Ships, called the *Holland*, where they were laden with Irons, and tormented with variety of Tortures; Insomuch, that the Author of this Discourse, who was a Factor at *Lantore*, and one of those who did partake in these grievous torments, hath these express words; *For my own part, I seriously protest,*

Ibidem pa. 18.

Ibidem pa. 20.

proteſt, that if it pleaſed God, the great Determiner of all things, to command me to yield my Body to be Tortured, I had rather by far chooſe the Turkiſh *then the* Dutch *Tormentors, for their Cruelties I am confident are far tranſcending the* Turkiſh *Extremities, and I know their viperous inclinations to the* Engliſh *will not be conſumated untill their compleated Iury ſhall ſurfeit it ſelf into an unparalleld Revenge.*

Many dayes were they thus Tormented, and ſome of them being moſt ſadly troubled with the Flux, theſe unmercifull people would not let them out of their Bolts, but compelled them to uſe the ſame Diſh to receive their Excrements, in which all of them conſtantly did eat their meat; theſe things were unſavoury indeed, but theſe Inhumane Creatures would not be ſenſible of their Calamities; At the laſt it pleaſed God, that ſome *Engliſh* Ships ſayling that way, and being informed what the *Dutch* had acted at *Lantore*, one of the Captains, Captain *Fitz Herbert* by Name, ſent to the *Dutch* to Demand the Priſoners, who being conveyed to his Ship, he wondered at their unſightly

ſlightly complexion, and the lameneſs of their bodies, the one being eaten in with Irons, and the other quite decayed for want of eating; By his means their Releaſe being obtained, they had liberty to depart to the Iſland of *Polleroon*.

And here they continued not long, but the *Dutch* who would have no Factories in the *Eaſt-Indies* but their own, did again ſeize upon them, and having plundred them to their very ſhirts, they Impriſoned them in a Caſtle which was in that Iſland, where they continued enduring many Extremities until the noiſe of their ſufferings, and durance being again divulged, they were again relieved by ſome *Engliſh* ſhips that paſſed that way; And the reaſon why they uſed ſo much cruelty to the *Engliſh*, being demanded, no other thing being to be laid unto their Charge, but onely their buying of Cloves upon the Iſlands; the *Dutch* at their Diſcharge told the Priſoners, that in regard they were the firſt *Engliſh*-Men that ever they took buying of Cloves upon that Iſland, they were willing

willing to spare their lives, but if for the time to come, they should ever take an *English*-Man in the same nature, they would not be so favourable as to hang him, but they would whip him to Death; And speaking in contempt of the *English*, they have been heard to speak words to this Effect: Alas! what is *England* if compared to our High and Mighty States of the *Neatherlands*, we know that we have Ships enough to block up all the *English*, and if any difference should arise, the proof should manifest the truth, for they would show us what the *Dutch* Men were, if ever they could find opportunity to put their Designs in Agitation; The Authour of this Discourse to show the candour of his spirit, in the representation of so sad a subject; *I protest*, saith he, *and shall be ready at any time to justifie it with my life, that I have not expressed any thing but what is really correspondent to the truth, and I am very much assured, that there be those now living, who can testifie with me the many Tragical Designs, that have not onely been acted on us, but upon many others.* Ibidem p. 42.

Neither

Neither was this their Arrogancy, and Cruelty expreſſed to the *Engliſh* alone, but the Inhabitants of *China* have had the ſad Experience of it, it being the common practiſe of the *Dutch* to ſeize upon their Veſſels as they came down to Traffique in thoſe Rivers, and and having plundered their ſhips, to drown the Men.

In the year, One thouſand ſix hundred and ſeventeen, the Inhabitants of the *Banda* Iſlands, made a Preſent to Captain *Ball*, at that time Preſident of *Bantam*, and beſought him that he would ſo far be pleaſed to compaſſionate their ſorrowfull conditions, as to accept of their Preſent, and receive their Iſlands into his Juriſdiction, by defending them from the Tyrannies of the intruding and unmerciful *Hollanders*, whoſe practiſe it was, daily to exact upon them, and to murther them at their pleaſures, and to abuſe their Wives whiles themſelves were inforced to look on, and not dare in the leaſt to reſiſt them; Moreover their Drunkenneſs was ſuch, and ſo habitual to them, that it was almoſt a wonder to

ſee

ſee them ſober; they told him, if he were pleaſed to accept of what they proffered, he ſhould very much oblige them, and no wayes prejudice himſelf nor the *Engliſh* Nation. To which Captain *Ball* replyed, that he much lamented their misfortune, but in regard that they had made a ſurrender of their Iſland already to the *Dutch*, it was not conſonant to Reaſon, that he ſhould take away that by force from the *Dutch*, which they had obtained by favour, he therefore deſired them to ceaſe their importunity; to which the *Bandaneſes* replyed, that if that were all the obſtacle, it might eaſily be removed, for they generally proteſted, they never gave the leaſt conſent to the *Hollanders* to poſſeſs their Iſlands, but that they wilfully and violently entred upon them without their conſent, and though that oftentimes they had deſired, yet the *Dutch* had never received any aſſurance of ſubmiſſion from them, the unworthineſs of their Actions having deterred the *Bandaneſes* from condeſcending to their perſwaſions. Hereupon Captain *Ball* became willing

willing to receive them into his Protection to the great comfort of the afflicted *Indians*.

Captain *Ball* continued Preſident not long after, for Captain *Iourdan* Arrived with Sir *Thomas Dailes* Fleet, in the year, 1618. at what time Captain *Ball* was commanded home; howſoever the Cruelties againſt the poor *Bandeneſes* in many of their Iſlands ſtill continued, and grew to ſuch a height, that they hardly could be parallel'd, and for no other cauſe, but that their Affections were ſo generally, and ſo fervently expreſſed towards the *Engliſh*.

Mention hath already been made of the taking of the Chief Town in the Iſland of *Lantore*, and how barbarouſly the *Dutch* dealt with the *Engliſh* Factory there; It is worthy your obſervation, that the greateſt part of the Inhabitants flying for their ſafety into the higheſt Hills of that Iſland, were courted by the *Dutch* to ſubmit, and ſurrender themſelves, and that they ſhould be received into favour and protection; Hereupon they came down in great numbers,

numbers; and four hundred of the Chiefeſt of them being picked out amongſt the reſt, they were tranſported into an adjacent Iſland, where having waſhed themſelves, accordingly as they had been adviſed, they were all invited to a great dinner, and intreated with many welcomes; they told them, they were heartily ſorry that they ſhould ſo much diſtruſt them as to fly to the *Engliſh*, there being none that deſired their ſafety and welfare more then themſelves, and that they would befriend them againſt all Oppoſers; they deſired that all differences whatſoever may be abſolutely compoſed, and all former injuries forgotten; to which purpoſe, to give them a manifeſtation of their Reſpects, they had tranſported them thither, and provided what for the preſent could be had for their Refreſhment. The Poor Inhabitants being much ſurprized at this unuſual manner of Reſpect, having fed heartily, and expreſſed their thankfulneſs, prepared for their departure; but the *Dutch* leading them to a window, told them, that they muſt walk to yon-

der Green, and take their Farewell of them there, for there their Executioners ſtood in a readineſs to diſpatch them; whereat the poor *Bandeneſes* being much amazed, cryed out, *O Apetow!* which is in *Engliſh*, *O what is this!* Immediately they were hurried away to the place of Execution, and by the *Japan* Slaves, the cruel Inſtruments of the *Hollanders*, they were cut aſunder in the middle alive, and their divided Quarters were ſent ſome of them to *Lantore*, ſome of them to *Polleroon*, and other Iſlands belonging unto *Banda*.

In the ſame year, they put to Death the Chiefeſt of the Inhabitants of *Polleroon*, amongſt whom was the Chief Prieſt of that Iſland, in whoſe ſide the *Dutch* having cut a hole, they commanded that Gun-powder ſhould be put into it, which at that inſtant being ſet on fire, by a new way of torment they deprived him of his life.

It is very obſervable, that although theſe Inhabitants of *Polleroon* were under the *Engliſh* Protection, yet their numbers being inconſiderable to the ſtrength of the *Dutch*, the *Engliſh* durſt

not

not contradict them; So that these poor people were not only murdered before their faces; but the *English* perceiving how Tyrannical withall the *Dutch* were, and how incroaching upon them, and what were their cruelties which they practised at *Amboyna*, of which more in its due place; in the year, One thousand six hundred and twenty two, they abandoned the *Banda* Islands which the *Dutch* have ever since possessed, and do still wrongfully and unjustly enjoy, not permitting the *English* to have any Commerce with them.

The English abandoned the Banda Islands, and the reason of it.

And in this place I shall not forget to give you the memorable account of the innumerable Shoales of *Mackerell* which was the Chiefest thing that supported those Islands, they came always in their season in great Multitudes, and if at any time they appeared not so numerous, they were sure to have arrived within the limits of two or three dayes, and in far greater abundance then usually before; but after that the *English* had left those Islands, they did forsake them also, as places polluted with Blood, and Avarice, or

as if they would come to no Coasts, but where Humanity and Probity, or at least where the *English* had their Residence.

Much about the same time, Captain *Iourdan* sayling from *Bantham* with two Ships, the one called the *Sampson*, the other the *Hound*, to the great Illands of *Burnew*, he discovered three or four *Dutch* Ships standing in for the same Port, and being confident that they intended no good to him, he gave order to prepare for the Encounter, fully resolving to fight it out to the last Man, rather then to yield himself to the unmerciful hands of his Insulting and Approaching Enemies; the *Dutch* summoned the *English* to deliver the Ships upon fair Quarter, but Captain *Iourdan* a well complexioned Man, who had a great heart in a little body, absolutely refused to yield upon any Condition whatsoever. The *Dutch* pretending to be unwilling to shed blood, called out to the *English*, and told them, that they knew very well that little Captain *Iourdan* was there, and desired them to perswade him to Parley with them;

Vide, *Dutch Tyranny*, pag. 64. *The Ty-*

them; Captain *Iourdan* being informed of it, refuſed to have any conference with them; whereupon they deſired that he would but ſhow himſelf upon the Quarter Deck, that by a fair complyance they might ſtop the effuſion of blood, which otherwiſe muſt came to paſs; Whereupon Captain *Iourdan* (thinking that to ſpeak with them could not much prejudice him) did ſhow himſelf on the Quarter Deck, & after the exchange of ſome few words, told them, that he knew the Juſtice of his Cauſe, and the Injuſtice of Theirs, and was reſolved to fight it out: The *Hollander* alledging that their ſtrength was far greater then his, and it was rather Deſparateneſs then true Valour to fight upon ſuch a Diſadvantage; it prevailed nothing at all with Captain *Iourdan*, who told them, he queſtioned not his own ſtrength, but was reſolved to fight it out, and to leave the ſucceſs unto God. The *Dutch* finding him intractable to their Demands, did hold him ſtill in Diſcourſe, until a Muſquet Bullet from one of their ſhips laid him dead upon the Deck, as he was in Par-

ley with them: At that very instant of time, whether by Treachery, or by Accident it is uncertain, a part of our other *English* Ship called the *Hound*, was blown up, and many of our men mortally hurt; the Amazement was so great, that the *English* were inforced to yield to the mercy of their Enemies, who having taken them, did cause them to be laden with bolts, and did not allow them so much favour as to the Heathen, for they were permitted to walk up and down with a chain of Iron, which is far more easie then to lye in bolts of Iron.

Thus may we observe, what injury and wrong we have all along sustained by the *Dutch*, who have got many of those Islands where now they have seated themselves by cruelty and blood-shed, and by murthering the *English* and their Friends; These indeed are sad Relations, and though dismall in themselves, they are but the Prologues to the Tragedy at *Amboyna*.

Amboyna is an Island lying near unto *Seran*, fruitful of Cloves, for the buying and gathering whereof the *English* Company

Company had for their parts planted five Factories, the Chiefeſt whereof was at the Town of *Amboyna*; but the *Hollanders* who had already diſpoſſeſſed them of their reſidence at *Polleroon*, and at *Lantore*, had a labouring deſire to heave them out alſo at *Amboyna*, and at *Banda*, ſeveral complaints and diſcontents did every day ariſe, which were transferred to *Iaccatra* in the Iſland of *Iava Major* to the Council of Defence of both Nations there reſiding, who alſo not agreeing in points of difference did ſend them over into *Europe* to be decided by both Companies here, or if they could not agree amongſt themſelves, they ſhould then be determined by the Kings Majeſty, and the Lords the States General according to the Article of the Treaty in the year One thouſand ſix hundred and nineteen, which although it was then Articled and Agreed upon by both Nations, yet the Ambition and Avarice of the *Dutch*, would not admit of ſo deliberate a courſe, but with raſh hands would of themſelves cut their way to their own ends, and uſe neither delay

nor conscience where gain or profit did appear. The *English* Factories at *Amboyna* began to be rich, and were a great eye-sore unto them who could not indure that any should Traffick there but themselves; On the eleventh therefore of *February*, in the year, One thousand six hundred and twenty two, a *Iaponer* who served the *Dutch* as a Souldier was apprehended upon suspition of Treason, and put to the Torture, the pretense was for asking the Sentinel, what was the strength of the Castle? The Extremity of the Torture was such, that it prompted him to confess whatsoever he perceived they would have him to say, which was, that himself, and sundry others of his Countrymen there had contrived the taking of the Castle; Upon this confession (which made a great noyse amongst the *Dutch*, and administred them a subject upon which to act, even according to their own desires) divers other *Iaponers* were examined and tortured; This Examination continued four daves, during which time, diverse *English*-Men that belonged to the Factory,

had every day their ingreſs into the *Caſtle*, and egreſs from it, they heard of the torturing of the *Japoners*, and of the crime laid to their charge, never dreaming of the bait that was prepared for themſelves: at the ſame time there was Priſoner in the Caſtle one *Abel Price*, an *Engliſh* Man, for threatning in a drunken humour to ſet a *Dutch* Mans houſe on fire: The *Dutch* being glad they had ſuch an Inſtrument to work on in their Cuſtody, they ſhowed him ſome of the *Japoners* whom moſt grievouſly they had Tortured, and told him, they had confeſſed that the *Engliſh* had combined with them for the taking of the Caſtle; whereupon having put him alſo to the Torture, they enforced him to confeſs whatſoever they deſired of him; Immediately upon this, Captain *Towerſon* and the reſt of the *Engliſh* that were in *Amboyna*, were ſent for to the Governour of the Caſtle: They in obedience to the command, did all of them repair unto him, one man excepted, that was left to keep the Factory; The Governour told Captain *Towerſon*, that he and many other of the

Engliſh

English Nation were Accused of a Conspiracy to surprize the Castle, and were to remain under Custody untill a further Tryal; instantly they attached the person that was left at home in the Factory, and the Merchandize of the *English* Company was taken into the *Dutch* Custody by Inventory; All their Chests, Boxes, Books, Writings, and whatsoever was of any Value in the *English* House were seized on, Captain *Towerson* was committed to his Chamber, having a Guard of *Dutch* Souldiers; *Emanuel Thomson*, one of the Chiefest of the Factors, was kept Prisoner in the Castle, seven others, *viz. John Beaumont*, *Edward Collins*, *William Webber*, *Ephraim Ramsey*, *Timothy Johnson*, *John Fardo*, and *William Brown* were sent aboard the Ships of the *Hollanders* then in Harbour, some to one ship, some to another, and all made fast in Irons: The rest of the *English* that were in the other Factories in the same Island were apprehended; *Samuel Colson*, *John Clark*, *George Sharrock* were found in the Factory at *Hitto*, and *Edward Collins*, *William Webber*, and *John Sadler*

Sadler in the Factory at *Larica*, who were all brought Prisoners to *Amboyna*. *John Powel*, *John Weatheral*, and *Thomas Ladbrook* were apprehended at *Cambello*, and *John Beaumont*, *William Griggs*, and *Ephraim Ramsey* at *Loho*, and brought in Irons to *Amboyna* on the 20th. day of *February*.

In the mean time the Governour and the Fiscal intend to lose no opportunity, in the prosecution of the fine Plot that was contrived; *John Beaumont*, and *Timothy Johnson* are sent for from abord the *Unicorn*; Being come into the Castle, *Beaumont* was left with a Guard in the Hall, and *Johnson* was taken into the place of Torture, where by and by to the great grief and astonishment of his heart and understanding, *Beaumont* heard him to make a lamentable Out-cry, and then to be silent for a little while, and not long afterwards to be as loud in his hideous complaints, if not louder then before; After this Torture *Abel Price* the Chyrurgion, who was first of all wracked, was brought in to accuse him; But *Johnsons* heart being as stout as it was innocent,

innocent, and not confessing any thing, he was remanded to the Torture again, where *Beaumont* heard him to roar, and cease from roaring, and then to roar out again, enough to soften the hardest stones into compassion; Having been a whole hour in this Purgatory of Fire and Water, they brought him forth wet all over, and burned in severall places of his body, and so laid aside in a by-place in the Hall, with a Souldier to watch him that he should speak to no man. After him *Emanuel Tompson* was examined in a room adjoyning to that where *Iohnson* had been Tortured, where being an hour and a half in his Examination, and his Torment, he was carried another way, and passed not through the Hall, where *Beaumont* attended, and every hour expected the dreadfull summons; At the last, *Beaumont* was called in, and with deep protestations denying what was propounded to him, he was made fast to the Rack, and the cloath being tyed about his Neck, and two men with Jarrs of Water in their hands being ready to pour it on his head, the Governour com-

commanded that he ſhould be taken down again, ſaying, that he would forbear him a day or two longer, becauſe he was an Old Man.

The next day being Sunday, *Robert Brown* was called in, and being on the Rack, and the Torment of Water given him, he confeſſed all as the Fiſcal aſked. After him was *Edward Collins* called in, whoſe Hand and Feet being faſtned to the Rack, he prayed to be reſpited, ſaying, he would confeſs all; But being let down, with great Oaths and Execrations he proteſted his innocency as before, yet told them, that becauſe he knew that by Torture, they would make him to confeſs any thing, though never ſo contrary to the Truth, they ſhould do him a great favour to tell him what they would have him to confeſs, and he would acknowledge it to avoid the torture; At which the Fiſcal being angry, he was hoyſted up again, and the Torment of Water being given him, he was not able to endure it, but prayed to be let down again to his Confeſſion; After which having deliberated a little with himſelf, he con-

confeſſed he had a hand in the Plot for the ſurpriſal of the Caſtle, and being demanded of the Fiſcal, whether Captain *Towerſon* were not an Aſſociate in the Conſpiracy; He Anſwered, No; Whereupon the Fiſcal told him, that he lied, for ſaid he, Did not he call all of you of the *Engliſh* Factories unto him, and tell you, that the daily Affronts and Abuſes of the *Dutch* had put a Plot into his head, and that he wanted nothing but your Conſent and Secrecy? A *Dutch* Merchant ſtanding by ſaid; And did not you all ſwear upon the Bible to be ſecret to him? *Collins* with great Proteſtations replyed, that he knew nothing at all of it: Being then delivered again into the hands of the Executioner, the ſenſe of the late Torture ſo prevailed upon him, that he confeſſed all to be true which they had ſpoken. Being thus reſpited, he was demanded, whether the Preſident of the *Engliſh* at *Iaccatra*, or Maſter *Welden* Agent for the *Engliſh* at *Banda* were not privy to the buſineſs; to which he again anſwered, No; Afterwards the Fiſcal propounded other Interrogatories

ries unto him, and perceiving that *Collins* knew not what anſwer to make, he helped him to confeſs thoſe things which he thought moſt conducing to his purpoſe.

Next to him was *Samuel Colſon* brought in, who for fear of the pain when he ſaw *Edward Collins* come forth, choſe rather to deny nothing that was propounded to him then undergo the ſorments of Fire and Water in the Atteſtation of his Innocence: But *John Clark* was of another Reſolution, he was no ſooner brought in by the Souldiers and Officers, but by and by he was heard to make a hideous and a lamentable complaint, which continued for the ſpace of two hours, during which time as they abated or increaſed his Torments, he diminiſhed or doubled his cryes at the Senſe and horrour of his Sufferings. The two Elements of Fire and Water, although mercileſs of themſelves, by making their Fury more deliberate, were here inſtructed to be more unmercifull, whiles accurate cruelty did torment even invention it ſelf to torment the Innocent;

The

The Rack ordained for the confession of great and grievous Offences is oftentimes but an unfaithfull discoverer of them; for whiles men are put to those torments, which Flesh and Blood are not able to endure, they confess those crimes which their Flesh and Blood were no wayes accessary to. Two hours was this poor Man under the torment of Fire and Water, yet confessed not any thing, at which his Tormentors being amazed, they did cut off his hair, thinking belike, that the strength of his Resolution lay in his hair, when indeed it lay in the Justice of his Cause, and the Innocence of his Conscience. Afterwards they hoysed him up again, and with lighted candles they did burn him in the bottom of his feet, untill the moisture that dropped from them did put out the candles, yet even then they applyed fresh lights unto him; They burnt him also in the elbows, and in the palms of his hands, and so horridly under his arm-pits, that his Inwards might evidently be seen; At the last, when they perceived that he could make no handsome

Con-

Confeſſion, they led him along with queſtions of particular circumſtances which they had framed of themſelves; And being wearied and overcome with Torments, he at laſt, according to their own wiſhes, made Anſwer to whatſoever they demanded of him. Being then releaſed from his Martyrdom, they ſent him out by four *Negroes*, who carried him between them to a Dungeon, where he lay five dayes without any Chyrurgian to dreſs his wounds, untill his fleſh being putrified great Maggots creeped and dropped from him in a moſt loathſom, and noyſome manner.

In the like manner, the reſt were all Examined, but none of them were ſo heavily Tortured, for ſome of them to avoid the Torment, made ſuddain Confeſſions, others at the firſt or ſecond drenching with the water, Anſwered to all the Interrogatories of the Fiſcal. Captain *Towerſon* himſelf being reſerved amongſt the laſt, untill the Torments of thoſe that were Examined before him might Rack out ſomething from them that might Evidence againſt Him, was brought into the Court, where theſe younkers of *Holland*, like another Council of *Rehoboam* ſate in Judgement upon Him; he deeply did proteſt his Innocence, to Encounter which they produced the Perſons and Confeſſions of

Samuel Colson, *William Griggs*, and *John Fardo*, *Samuel Colson* being told, that unless he would make good his former Confession against Captain *Towerson*, he should be commanded again to the Torture of Fire and Water, did coldly and faintly re-affirm what before he said, and so was dismissed; the other two being brought face to face before Captain *Towerson*, he charged them, as they would Answer it at the dreadful Day of Judgement to speak nothing but the truth, at which both of them trembled down upon their knees, and besought him for GOD's sake to forgive them, they openly acknowledged that that whatsoever they formerly had confessed was most false, and spoken only to avoid the Torment; Upon these words the Fiscal, and the rest of this High Court of Justice did command them again to the Torture, which they would not endure, but affirmed their former Confession to be true.

I do find this Torment was so terrible to Flesh and Blood, that it even startled the Courage of Captain *Towerson* himself, who either to avoid the horrour of the Torment, or the infamy of it, confessed some words which the Factor of *Cambello* in the Isle of *Seran*, Master *John Weatherall* should speak, who being sent for, and Examined on the day following, the Captain was brought

brought forth to justifie what before he had confessed, who desiring Mr. *Weatheral* to speak the truth, and nothing but the truth as God should put it into his heart; Mr. *Weatheral* was in a great Amazement, and being ordered to undergo the torture of water, and told, that if water would not make him to confess, fire should; he prayed them to tell him what he should say, or to write down what they themselves pleased, and he would subscribe unto it; but being told that he needed no Tutor, and that they would make him to confess of himself, having hoysted him up four several times, and perceived that he knew not what to say, they did read unto him the Confession of the other Men that had been Examined, and asked him from point to point, and he observing very well which way the world did go, and that his Life must become a Sacrifice to the Rage and Rapine of the *Dutch*, did still answer yea unto all.

On the 26 of *February old stile*, the Prisoners were all brought into the great Hall of the Castle to be prepared for death, by their Ministers, being solemnly Condemned the day before, some few of them found mercy, and had their lives saved; Captain *Towerson*, was kept apart from the rest, and so was Mr. *Emanuel Towson*, but some of them by writing found the oppor-

tunity to leave a Testimony of their Innocence behind, amongst whom was Captain *Towerson*, who in the end of a Bill or Obligation wrote these words; *Firmed by the Firm of me* Gabriel Towerson *now appointed to die, guiltless of any thing that can justly be Laid unto my Charge, God forgive them their guilt and receive me into his Mercy.* Amen.

William Griggs, also did leave a paper to be sent to Mr. *Welden* Agent at *Banda*, which came afterwards into his hands; the Tenour of it was in these Words:

We whose Names are here specified, John Beaumont, William Griggs, Abel Price, Robert Brown, *Prisoners in the* Rotterdam, *being apprehended for Conspiracy for blowing up the Castle of* Amboyna, *being adjudged to Death, were through Torment constrained to speak that which we never meaned or imagined, the which we take upon our deaths and salvation, for they tortured us with that extreame torture of Fire and Water, that Flesh and Blood could no wayes endure it; and this we take upon our deaths, that they have put us to death being guiltless of our Accusation: So therefore we desire that those who imployed us may understand these wrongs, and that you your selves would have a Care to look to your selves, for their intent was to have brought you in also; They*

asked concerning you, and if we had been Tortured on that particular, we must have confessed you also. And so Farewell.

Master *Welden* having perused this Letter, and observed the bloody and inveterate Malice of the *Dutch* against the *English*, did not long afterwards leave the Island of *Banda* to the *Dutch*, and the *English* Factories in the *Molluco* Islands did follow his Example.

Samuel Colson, also in a Psalter which he had, did leave this Attestation of his Innocence.

The Japoners *were taken and brought to Examination, and being most Tyrannously Tortured were asked if the* English *had any hand in their Plot, which Torture made them say, yea; Immediately Mr.* Tomson, *Mr.* Johnson, *Master* Collins, *and* John Clark *were Examined, and burned under the Arms, Arm-Pits, the Hands, and Soals of the Feet, with another most miserable Torment, of Water; some of them being almost Tortured to Death, were forced to confess that which they never knew, by reason of the great Torment, which Flesh and Blood is not able to endure. Then were the rest of the* English *Men called, (amongst whom I was one,) being wished to confess, or else I must go to Torment; they withall caused Master* Johnson, *who was before Tormented, to witness against me, or otherwise he should be Tormented*

again, which rather than he would endure, he ſaid, he would confeſs whatſoever they would have him: And for my part, I alſo muſt confeſs that which I never knew, or elſe I muſt go to Torment, which rather than I would ſuffer, I confeſſed that, which (as I ſhall be ſaved before Almighty God) is not True, being forced to it for fear of Torment. At the laſt they did make us to bear witneſs againſt Captain Towerſon, *and by the ſame violence for fear of moſt Cruel Torments, they made Captain* Towerſon *to confeſs the like, for which we all muſt dye. As I hope to have pardon for my ſins, I know no more than the Child unborn of this Buſineſs, for which we all muſt ſuffer. Written with my own hand the firſt of March,* Stilo novo.

Samuel Colſon.

Other Atteſtations there are to the ſame effect, which for brevities ſake I omit, I ſhall only inſert, that all things being prepared for Execution, the Condemned were brought forth out of the Hall, and paſſed along by the Chamber where the Acquitted and Pardoned were, who ſtood in the door to give and take the farewell of their Country-Men that were then going to the Execution; Making a little ſtay for this purpoſe, they intreated and charged thoſe that were ſaved to bear witneſs to their Friends in *England* of their Innocence, and that they died not like Traytors, but as ſo many Innocents meerly

meerly murthered by the *Hollanders*, whom they prayed to God to forgive their blood-thirstiness, and to have mercy on their own souls.

It is observable, that being brought into the Yard, their Sentence was there read unto them from a Gallery, and from thence they were carried to the place of Execution, together with Nine *Japons* and one *Portugal*, whom their specious malice to give a better pretense unto their cruelty, had contrived to be of the same Confederacy: They did not go the ordinary and short way, but round about through the Town, and were guarded with five Companies of Souldiers, *Dutch* and *Amboyners*, and the Natives of the Island flocked together to behold this Triumph of the *Dutch* over the Innocent and Condemned *English*. And it is not to be forgotten, that, on the day before, the *English* desired of the *Dutch* Ministers, that they might all receive the Sacrament, as a Seal of the forgiveness of their sins; which by no means would be granted them; whereupon Master *Colson* said unto them, You declare unto us the danger of dissimulation in this Case; But tell us, if we suffer guiltless, being true believers in Christ Jesus, what shall our Reward be? The Minister Answered, By how much the more Innocent you are, by so much the Glorious shall be your Resur-

Resurrection; Upon that word Mr. *Colson* imbraced him, and gave him his Purse and such money as was in it, saying, *Sir, God bless you, tell the Governour I freely forgive him, and intreat you to exhort him to repent of his Bloody Tragedy wrought upon us poor Innocent Souls*, and proceeding in his Discourse, he spake with a loud voice in these words, *According to my Innocence in this Treason, so O Lord pardon all the rest of my sins, and if I be guilty thereof more or less, let me never be partaker of thy Heavenly Joyes*; At which words every one of the rest cryed out, *Amen for me, Amen for me, good Lord.* This being said, each of them knowing whom they had Accused, addressed themselves one unto another, begging forgiveness for their false Accusations, being wrested from them either by the pain, or by the fear of Torture; whereupon they all of them freely did forgive one another, for none of them had been so falsely Accused, but he himself had as falsely Accused another. In particular *George Sharrock* kneeled down to *John Clark* and craved forgiveness at his hands, who freely did forgive him, saying, *How shall I look to be forgiven of God, if I should not forgive you, having my self so falsely Accused Captain* Towerson *and Others.* This Master *Colson* had contrived a Prayer in writing which he did read to his Fellows the night before their

Suffering,

Suffering, and now alſo at the place of Execution, where having devoutly pronounced the ſame, he let the Paper fall from his hand, which the Governour cauſed to be brought unto him, and he kept it. The Names of thoſe that Suffered were,

Cap. *Gabriel Towerſon*,		*Iohn Clark*,
Samuel Colſon,		*William Griggs*,
Emanuel Tomſon,		*Iohn Fardo*,
Timothy Iohnſon,		*Abel Price*,
Iohn Weatheral,		*Robert Brown*.

They had prepared a Cloath of black Velvet for Captain *Towerſon's* Body to fall upon, after his Head had been ſevered from it, which being ſtained, and defaced with his Blood, they ſent to the *Engliſh* Company and put it on their Account. They ſent the Mourning Cloath to the *Engliſh*, but the Scarlet of their Blood-Guiltineſs they retained to themſelves.

Having thus given you an Account of the Barbarous Cruelty of the *Dutch* in the *Eaſt-Indies*, it is now high time to look to their Proceedings in the *Weſt-Indies*, where we ſhall find their Cruelty as unparallel'd as their Avarice.

The Perfidiouſneſs and Ingratitude of the *Hollanders* to the *Engliſh* may be traced all along ever ſince the ſhook of their Obedience to the

King of *Spain* even unto this present time. But we will pass from their Hypocrisie and Cruelty practised abroad, and look on their Actions at Home; How, almost but the very other day, did they labour to impose upon His Majesty, and Sir *George Downing*, his Envoy Extraordinary, by delivering Papers to many Publick Ministers of State at the *Hague*, as if His Majesty and his Envoy had been prepossessed with them, when they had not the least notice of any such thing? How have they seemed to be most desirous of Peace, when at the same time they have omitted no dayes, even those appropriated for Holy Duties to drive on their preparations for War? How have they stood in defence of their violent and unjust Proceedings, and instead of redressing their Injuries, they have increased them? About three years since, they concluded a Treaty with the *English*, and having ingaged, that better order should for the future be observed, they have since heaped new Injuries to the utter over-throw of all the Trade of His Majesties Subjects in the *East* and *West-Indies*; Witness our Ships, the *Hope-well*, the *Leopard*, and some others in the *East-Indies*; And the *Charles*, the *James*, the *Mary*, the *Sampson*, the *Hopefull Adventure*, the *Speed-well* on the Coast of *Africa*; And after all these Acts of the Highest Injustice,

and

and their utmoſt endeavours for driving on a War, they would make the world believe that his Majeſty is the firſt undertaker of it, who from his own Mouth to their Ambaſſadour in *England*, and by his Injunctions to Sir *George Downing* his Miniſter at the *Hague* hath given ſo many, and ſuch Remarkable Demonſtrations to the contrary: What can they ſay to the Memorial of the complaints which Sir *George Downing* exhibited to the States General, importing that in the ſpace of a very few years almoſt twenty *Engliſh* Ships with their whole Lading, to a very great value, have been ſeized upon in a horrible manner, and the Men in them moſt Barbarouſly, and moſt Inhumanely Treated, being put into ſtinking and naſty Dungeons, and Holes at *Caſtel. del. Mina*, where they did lye bedded and bathed in their own Excrements, having nothing but bread and water given them, and not enough of that neither to ſuſtain Nature, [their Bodies being under the Fury of Exquiſite and Horrid Torments;] and when any of them died, the living and the dead were left together, and ſuch as out-lived that cruelty, were expoſed in the woods to famine, or to the mercy of wild beaſts in thoſe deſolate Countries, or to be carried into Captivity by the Natives by which means ſeveral Hundreds

dreds of His Majeſties Good Subjects have periſhed and been deſtroyed; And unto this hour, notwithſtanding all ſollicitations and endeavous of his Majeſties Envoy, not one penny of Satisfaction can be had, either for the loſs of the Ships, or the Perſons concerned in any of them, but to the contrary they have ever ſince hindred, and ſhot at the *Engliſh* Ships that have Anchored by them, and have took by force all the Boats of thoſe Natives who have endeavoured to come aboard them, and have ſeized alſo upon the *Engliſh* Boats that would go on ſhore, and deprive them of all manner of Proviſion, not ſuffer ſo much as freſh water to be brought unto them; And to give a further proof of their Confidence and Ambition, they have publiſhed a Declaration, wherein they aſſume and challenge to themſelves a Right to that whole Coaſt, to the Excluſion of all other Nations; Although, by Order from His Majeſty, Sir *George Downing*, both in Publick Conferences with the Deputies of the Lords General, as alſo with thoſe of *Holland* in particular, hath at large Remonſtrated His Majeſties Right, and Intereſt in ſome part therein, having by his Subjects bought the Ground of the King of that Country for a valuable Conſideration, and built a Factory thereon; And yet for all this, ſome of the

Dutch

Dutch-West-India Company by fraud and Treachery have got into the place, and no hopes of the Restitution of it, but they are resolved to keep by violence what they have gained by deceit. Moreover, what can they say for themselves concerning their stirring up the King of *Fantin* by rewards and sums of Money, and supplying him with all manner of Arms and Ammunition for the surprizing of his Majesties Castle at *Cormantin* in the *West-Indies*; so that an absolute Necessity is imposed upon his Majesty, and his Subjects, either of losing all that have been actually taken from them, and abandoning for ever that Trade it self, or of betaking themselves to some other wayes for their Relief; And what Hope is there of their Restoring back any place which they have once taken. The Island of *Polleroon* hath been upon surrendring back to the *English*, ever since the year, 1622. at which, by a Solemn and Particular Treaty it was promised to be done; and again, by another Treaty in the year, 1654. and by an Order of the States General, and the *East* Company of that Nation in the year, 1661. and again by another Treaty in the year following; And yet to this day, there is not the least mention of any thing Restored; And should any Man then think it strange, that His Majesty

after

after so long an experience of the perverseness and deceitfulness of that Nation should suffer his Subjects to repossess themselves of those places, which by the hand of Violence and Oppression they have forced from them;

Now as for the business of the *New-Neatherlands*, as they are pleased to call it, It hath been abundantly else-where prov'd, that the said Land is part of the Possession of His Majesties Subjects of *New England*, which their Charter plainly and precisely expresseth: And those few *Dutch* that have lived there heretofore, have lived there meerly upon the connivence and sufferance of the *English*, which hath been permitted to them so to do, so long as they demeaned themselves peaceably and quietly; but the *Dutch* not contenting themselves therewith, have incroached more and more upon the *English*, imposing their Laws and Customs, and endeavouring to raise Contributions and Excises on them, and in those places where the *Dutch* had never been, whereupon they have been necessitated several times to send Souldiers for the repulsing of them: Since the Conclusion of the late Treaty the *Dutch* have made new Incursions upon the *English*, and given them many new Provocations, and have ordained a Tryal of Causes amongst themselves, and a proceeding

by

by course of Arms, without any appealing into *Europe* at all. And can any Prince then think it strange, especially the King of *France*, if His Majesty of *England* suffer his Subjects to rescue themselves from such continual Vexations, seeing the King of *France* himself hath been pleased this year, to Order his Subjects to re-possess themselves by force of Arms of a certain place called *Cayen*, which the *French* alledge hath been wrongfully kept from them by the *West-India* Company of the *Neatherlanders*. As for the business of Captain *Holmes* at *Capo Verde* in *Guiney*, a complaint was no sooner made to His Majesty, this last year, in the Moneth of *June*; But His Majesty immediately returned Answer, that he had given no Order nor Direction therein to Captain *Holmes*, and that upon his Return, he would examine the business, and see that Right should be done according to the nature of the Offence: In order whereunto, when Captain *Holmes* was returned, His Majesty sent him to the *Tower*, and being afterwards allowed the liberty of some few dayes to follow his particular business, he was again Commanded back, where being strictly and throughly Examined touching the management of the whole matter complained of, he so fully, and so clearly upon every point did acquit himself, that His Ma-

esty

sty was graciously pleased to grant him his Inlargement, and to restore him again to His Princely Favour. We might in the next place alledge *De Ruyters* leaving the *English* Fleet, when with United Councils and Forces, they were to Act against their Common Enemies, the *Pyrats* and *Barbarians* in the *Midland-Seas*. We may alledge their Instructions this last year given to *Van Campen*, at what time His Majesty entertained not any open War against them; which Instructions was, in down-right Terms, *To Attach and Fall upon His Majesties Subjects in the* West-Indies, *and to carve out their own Satisfaction and Reparation*. * And if this be not Affront enough to provoke His Majesty to maintain the Justice of His Cause by the Force of Armes, we leave to the World, and to His Enemies themselves to Judge, and surely that Sword is to be feared, which striketh with the Hand of Justice.

* Vide, *The Discourse of* Sir George Downing.

FINIS.

The LOYAL MARTYROLOGY, *Or brief Catalogues and Characters of the most Eminent Persons who suffered for their Conscience during the late times of Rebellion, either by Death, Imprisonment, Banishment, or Sequestration; Together with those who were Slain in the Kings Service. As also,* Dregs of Treachery: *with the Catalogue and Characters of those Regicides*, &c. And are to be sold by *Edward Thomas* at the *Adam* and *Eve* in *Little Britain*, 1665.